



Substitute House Bill No. 5355

Public Act No. 24-13

AN ACT CONCERNING THE WATER RESOURCES OF THE UPPER FARMINGTON RIVER VALLEY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Metropolitan District Commission, shall make Colebrook River Lake Dam release and holdback requests to the United States Army Corps of Engineers, as needed, to achieve an optimum flow in the Farmington River for: (1) Fish and wildlife, (2) recreation, (3) the river's health, (4) flood risk reduction, (5) tourism, (6) hydropower, and (7) safety.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any special act, the Metropolitan District Commission shall release from the Goodwin Dam any amount of water released from the Colebrook Dam based on a request of the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental in furtherance of the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025, within available resources, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the

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environment, on recommended courses of action for the state to manage the waters contained in Colebrook River Lake between the levels of seven hundred one feet and six hundred forty-one feet in the event that the federal government releases the Metropolitan District Commission from responsibility for such waters. Such report shall address the state's interest in achieving an optimum flow for: (1) Fish and wildlife, (2) recreation, (3) the river's health, (4) flood risk reduction, (5) tourism, (6) hydropower, and (7) safety. The commissioner shall consult relevant stakeholders in the preparation of such report.

Approved May 14, 2024