

58:22-8

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 58:22-8 (Raritan River - reduce minimum passing flow requirement to reduce reservoir depletion)

LAWS 1981 CHAPTER 10

Bill No. A3042

Sponsor(s) Hollenbeck

Date Introduced Jan. 22, 1981

Committee: Assembly -----

Senate -----

Amended during passage Yes ~~No~~ Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly Jan. 22, 1981

Senate Jan. 26, 1981

Date of approval Jan. 26, 1981

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes ~~No~~ (Below)

Committee Statement: Assembly ~~Yes~~ No

Senate ~~Yes~~ No

Fiscal Note ~~Yes~~ No

Veto Message ~~Yes~~ No

Message on signing Yes ~~No~~

Following were printed:

Reports ~~Yes~~ No

Hearings ~~Yes~~ No

Sponsor's statement:

This bill permits the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to reduce the minimum passing flow requirements in the Raritan river in order to use the water in the Spruce Run and Round Valley Reservoirs to meet emergency situations such as drought conditions.

6/22/81

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ASSEMBLY, No. 3042

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 22, 1981

By Assemblyman HOLLENBECK

(Without Reference)

AN ACT concerning the release of water from Spruce Run reservoir into the south branch of the Raritan river and amending P. L. 1958, c. 34.

1 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
2 of New Jersey:

1 1. Section 8 of P. L. 1958, c. 34 (C. 58:22-8) is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 8. a. Whenever the flow of water in the south branch of the
4 Raritan river is less than 40 million gallons daily at the United
5 States Geological Survey stream gauging station at Stanton, or
6 less than 70 million gallons daily at the United States Geological
7 Survey stream gauging station at Manville, or less than 90 million
8 gallons daily at the United States Geological Survey stream gaug-
9 ing station at Bound Brook, a sufficient amount of water shall be
10 released from the Spruce Run reservoir or from such other reser-
11 voir or reservoirs as may be constructed on the south branch of
12 the Raritan river or its tributaries and, if necessary, from the
13 Round Valley reservoir in such amounts as will maintain not less
14 than the said flows of 40 million gallons daily at Stanton and 70
15 million gallons daily at Manville and 90 million gallons daily at
16 Bound Brook, and such released water shall be returned to the
17 south branch of the Raritan river at the point of diversion or
18 pumping into any such reservoir or at some point upstream
19 thereof.

20 b. The commissioner is authorized to alter these passing flow
21 requirements during ***[emergency situations]*** *a drought emer-
22 gency, declared pursuant to executive order,* in which danger to
23 the public health, safety or welfare is imminent.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

JANUARY 27, 1981

JOE SANTANGELO

Governor Brendan Byrne today signed a bill permitting the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to reduce the minimum passing flow requirements in the Raritan River in certain cases.

The bill, A-3042, was sponsored by Assemblyman Robert P. Hollenbeck (D-Bergen).

The Raritan is the only river located within the State which has its flow regulated by statute.

Under the bill, the DEP Commissioner can alter the flow requirements to use the water in the Spruce Run and Round Valley Reservoirs to meet emergency situations such as drought conditions in which danger to the public health, safety or welfare is imminent.

Governor Byrne commended Assemblyman Hollenbeck and the Legislature on the quick passage of the legislation, which was introduced last Thursday.

"Dealing with the emergency situation caused by the drought requires the cooperation of the Legislature, the Executive branch of government, the business community, the media and all the people of our State. The quick passage of this bill, which will give the Commissioner the discretion to free up some of our water supplies, is evidence of government's willingness to work together on this common problem," Byrne said.

"We need almost twice as much rain as we normally get between now and June in order to have sufficient supplies to meet the summer; and, if people don't conserve water in their everyday activities, we may have to impose more stringent measures," he said.

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