



MASSACHUSETTS Rivers Alliance

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2017-2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The mission of the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance is to protect and restore streams and rivers across the Commonwealth. Mass Rivers supports the following legislation:

Water Quality and Quantity

An Act relative to drought management (SD.1828/HD.2398) would give the Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force statutory authority and provide the EEA Secretary with the authority to require conservation measures during a drought.

An Act to improve water quality and pollution control programs (HD.2348) directs the Water Resources Commission to conduct a gap analysis of federal and state water pollution control programs.

An Act promoting awareness of safe recreation in public waterways (SD.1979/HD.3585) would institute a statewide sewage discharge notification system to alert Massachusetts residents when combined sewer overflow discharges make rivers unsafe for recreation.

An Act relative to nitrogen impaired embayments (HD.3183) would require that on-site septic systems installed in nitrogen sensitive areas will treat for nitrogen and ***An Act relative to failed septic systems (HD.3177)*** would allow MassDEP to approve loans to upgrade on-site septic systems to those which can treat for nitrogen.

An Act relative to streamflow standards (SD.391/HD.2739) would require DEP to adopt regulations to maintain streamflow and water levels.

An Act providing for the establishment of sustainable water resource funds (SD.393/HD.2403) would authorize municipalities to assess a “water-banking” fee on large-scale water users to conserve water, address environmental impacts and fix municipal infrastructure.

Mass Rivers also supports the bills that would regulate solid waste disposal facilities, filed by Senator Gobi.

State Operating Budget

Mass Rivers encourages the Legislature to devote at least one percent of the state operating budget to environmental agencies.

For more information contact:

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