

SENATE No. 1348

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael O. Moore

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to local water and sewer district oversight.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Michael O. Moore

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Worcester

SENATE No. 1348

By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1348) of Michael O. Moore for legislation relative to local water and sewer district oversight. Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to local water and sewer district oversight.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 165 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 28 the
2 following section:-

3 Section 29. Local water and sewer district oversight

4 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department shall have
5 authority over any water or sewer district established as an independent body politic and
6 corporate pursuant to a special law.

7 The department shall approve fees, rates, rents, assessments, abatements and other
8 charges established by a district; make all necessary inquiries; and ensure compliance by such
9 districts with all state laws and regulations.

10 Any water and sewer district shall immediately notify the department of any known
11 financial liabilities or risks which are reasonably likely to result in the imminent insolvency of

12 the water or sewer district, or otherwise negatively affect the district's ability to fulfill its
13 obligations. If a water or sewer district is insolvent and unable to pay its current obligations or
14 pay obligations that will become due during the next fiscal year, the Commonwealth shall
15 appoint a receiver with full authority to operate, assess the continued viability of the district,
16 assume the financial responsibilities of the operations, and make all decisions regarding the
17 water and sewer system.

18 The department may establish from time to time such reasonable rules and regulations
19 consistent with this chapter as may be necessary to carry out the administration thereof.