

## Joint Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries

### Bill Summary

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H.1058
<b>Title:</b>	An Act relative to a cranberry water use transfer program
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Representative Sylvia of Fairhaven
<b>Cosponsors:</b>	Representatives Orrall of Lakeville, LaNatra of Kingston, Flanagan of Dennis, DeCoste of Norwell, Howitt of Seekonk, Cabral of New Bedford, Gaskey of Carver, Kane of Shrewsbury, Saunders of Belchertown, Gallagher of Bridgewater, and Badger of Plymouth
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 10:00 PM - 01:00 PM, B-1
<b>Reporting Date:</b>	Saturday, November 15th, 2025
<b>Similar Matters:</b>	S.602 (Senator Fernandes - Identical)

#### Prior History

2023-2024: Filed as H.909; Referred to the Joint Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources; Discharged to the Joint Committee on Agriculture where no further action was taken.

2021-2022: Filed as H.1017; Referred to the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture; Accompanied a new draft H.4599; Reported favorably to the House Committee on Ways and Means where no further action was taken.

2019-2020: Filed as H.881; Referred to Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture; Accompanied study order H.5078.

2017-2018: Filed as H.2151; Referred to Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture; Accompanied study order H.4530.

#### Current Law

Chapter 21G relates to the Massachusetts Management Water Act. This chapter authorizes The Department of Environmental Resources (DEP) to regulate the amount of water drawn from natural sources. DEP maintains a permitting program for the withdrawal of water for certain uses and industries.

## **Summary**

This bill allows the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to provide authorization for towns or registered users with existing permits for that watershed to purchase water rights from cranberry growers who no longer need their permit. Towns may apply the usage of the unused water rights as indirect mitigation toward their own water use.