

# An Act Providing for the Establishment of Sustainable Water Resource Funds (SD.393/HD.2403)

Senate Sponsor: Jamie Eldridge  
House Sponsor: Carolyn Dykema

## The Problem

Although MA is a water-rich state, we are also small and densely-populated, and many river basins around MA suffer from the effects of our water use:

- Over 20% of the state's streams are unnaturally dry in the summer;
- About half of our rivers and streams don't meet the water quality standard of fishable and swimmable.

These problems are due to water withdrawals, wastewater discharges and stormwater pollution. As communities grapple with decaying infrastructure, environmental regulations, and other rising costs, municipalities need to develop new funding mechanisms to mitigate the impacts of new and increased water uses.



Water main break in downtown Boston.

## The Solution

This bill would authorize municipalities to assess a “water-banking” fee on large-scale water users to help communities mitigate the impacts of major new and increased developments on water resources.

- The fees collected can be used solely to mitigate these impacts, and must go into a water utility expressly for this purpose. This money will be protected from being “borrowed” for other municipal uses.
- These fees will help towns comply with environmental regulatory requirements.
- Communities can choose to establish a water bank or not, at their discretion.

### For more information contact:

Paula Costa, Office of Sen. Eldridge, [paula.costa@MAsenate.gov](mailto:paula.costa@MAsenate.gov) (617) 722-1120

David Melly, Office of Rep. Dykema, [David.Melly@mahouse.gov](mailto:David.Melly@mahouse.gov) (617) 722-2680

Gabby Queenan, Mass Rivers Alliance, [gabbyqueenan@massriversalliance.org](mailto:gabbyqueenan@massriversalliance.org) (857) 445-0208

Steve Long, The Nature Conservancy, [slong@tnc.org](mailto:slong@tnc.org) (617) 532-8367

