

STATEMENT TO  
[First Reprint]  
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**SENATE, No. 647**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Senators GREENSTEIN and SINGLETON)

ADOPTED: JULY 30, 2020

The Senate floor amendments:

(1) amend the “Water Quality Accountability Act,” P.L.2017, c.133 (C.58:31-1 et seq.) to provide that the law applies to public community water systems, rather than public water systems;

(2) add a definition for the term “public community water system”;

(3) add a definition for the term “New Jersey Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell”;

(4) require that the New Jersey Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell (NJCCIC) develop requirements for water purveyors’ cybersecurity programs, rather than the Board of Public Utilities (BPU);

(5) require that water purveyors submit their cybersecurity plans and revisions only to the NJCCIC, and not to the BPU or the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP);

(6) provide that the NJCCIC may cause to be audited certain public community water systems, and require that audits be conducted by a qualified and independent cybersecurity company at the water purveyor’s expense;

(7) require water purveyors, following a cybersecurity audit, to submit the audit and any corrective action plans to the NJCCIC;

(8) require water purveyors to report cybersecurity incidents to the NJCCIC, and not to the BPU or the DEP;

(9) require that reports of cybersecurity incidents to the NJCCIC be made “promptly,” instead of “immediately” after an employee is made aware of an incident;

(10) provide that the DEP may cause to be audited certain public community water systems, rather than conducting an audit itself, and that the DEP may require a water purveyor to pay the cost of the audit;

(11) provide that a water purveyor’s water main renewal program may be designed to achieve another, appropriate replacement cycle, rather than a 150-year or shorter replacement cycle);

(12) specify that dedicated funding required to address and remediate the highest priority infrastructure projects by a water purveyor on an annual basis be adequate for that purpose;

(13) require that the a water purveyor submit a report based on its asset management plan to the DEP each year, rather than every three years;

(14) provide that a water purveyor's compliance with the requirement to report on its asset management plan may be demonstrated through the submission of evidence of the completion of a detailed, comprehensive planning study or certain other studies;

(15) provide that the detailed comprehensive planning study and certain other studies conducted by a water purveyor are not government records, and are not required to be made available for public inspection;

(16) require each water purveyor to revise its asset management plan to include a comprehensive inventory, mapping, and evaluation of the condition of certain asset classes belonging to the public community water system;

(17) require that a water purveyor's level of service goals, required to be established under the bill, be based upon industry standards such as those established by the American Water Works Association;

(18) remove the requirement in the bill that a water purveyor include in its asset management plan the life cycle costs of the public community water system's assets; and

(19) make technical changes to the bill.