

and maintain reservoirs or canals and such other work as may be deemed necessary or proper for conveying, raising, forcing, retaining, distributing, or disposing of said water in such a manner as may be deemed in the public interest.

The rights of the Essex Company, as granted by chapter one hundred and sixty-three of the acts of eighteen hundred and forty-five, and the rights of any successor to such company are preserved insofar as these rights may be exercised in a manner reasonable and consistent with the public interest and the proper utilization of the Merrimack river as determined by the department of environmental quality engineering, provided that there shall be an adequate flowage of the river to supply the city of Lawrence and the city known as the town of Methuen.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this chapter are severable, and, if any of its provisions shall be held unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of such court shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved September 21, 1977.

Chap. 533. AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF ROGERSON HOUSE.
Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 153 of the special acts of 1860, as amended by chapter 624 of the acts of 1956, is hereby further amended by striking out section 1 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 1. Moses Grant, William Ropes, Albert Fearing, their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation by the name of Rogerson House, for the purpose of providing a home for, and otherwise assisting respectable aged men; with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all the duties, liabilities and restrictions, set forth in the sixty-eighth chapter of the General Statutes, passed December twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved September 23, 1977.