

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1012**

By Mr. Costello, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1012) of Nicholas J. Costello, Larry F. Giordano and Barbara Hildt for legislation to establish a Merrimack River district council. Natural Resources and Agriculture.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Seven.

**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MERRIMACK RIVER DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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

1 There is hereby established a Merrimack River District Council  
2 consisting of one member to be chosen from the board of  
3 selectmen or town council or the mayor, whichever is applicable  
4 or their respective designees from each of the following cities and  
5 towns: — Amesbury, Andover, Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut,  
6 Groveland, Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, Merrimac, Methuen,  
7 Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, Salisbury, Tewksbury,  
8 Tyngsborough, Westford, and West Newbury who shall be voting  
9 members, and the following non-voting members: — the executive  
10 directors of the Greater Lawrence, Lowell, and Haverhill Sanitary  
11 Districts or their designees and the president of the Merrimack  
12 Valley Watershed Council, MVPC.

13 The Merrimack River District Council shall include in its review  
14 of and investigation, but not be limited to, the use of the  
15 Merrimack River, the improvement of available water resources  
16 for the district and methods for preserving, protecting, and  
17 increasing such resources; water conservation, water quality;  
18 appropriate methods to manage and develop the river and its  
19 related land uses; stream flow; treatment facilities for sewage;  
20 methods for protecting water quality and quantity; fisheries and  
21 wildlife development and maintenance; recreation; cooperative  
22 efforts among cities and towns along the Massachusetts portion  
23 of the Merrimack River; cooperative efforts between the

24 Commonwealth and the state of New Hampshire regarding the  
25 river; future water supply needs of the Commonwealth; methods  
26 for protecting the purity of the water and the costs thereof, and  
27 may make recommendations on these and other river-related  
28 issues to the Water Resources Commission, the Massachusetts  
29 Water Resources Authority, the department of environmental  
30 quality engineering, the Merrimack River Legislative delegation  
31 of the General Court, and any municipality within or without the  
32 boundaries of the Council's member communities. The Council  
33 shall file a report annually with its member communities.

34 The Council shall elect a chair from among its voting members,  
35 and shall adopt such rules of procedure as necessary for the  
36 performance of its duties (consistent with the provisions of  
37 Chapter 30A).

38 The council shall meet at regular intervals in accordance with  
39 the provisions of chapter 30A and may by a two-thirds affir-  
40 mative vote of all its members establish an assessment on each  
41 member community to assist in funding of personnel for the  
42 council. The council shall be eligible to receive technical assistance  
43 from the Water Resources Commission and the department of  
44 environmental engineering. The council shall also be eligible to  
45 receive grants from the state or any other governmental or private  
46 entity but shall report annually to its member communities all  
47 receipts and expenditures.