



PROVIDENCE WATER

Tap Water Delivers

April 6, 2026

Chairman Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
House Committee on Corporations
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H 7872 - An Act Relating to Waters and Navigation – Public Drinking Water Supply

The Hon. Brett P. Smiley
Mayor

Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Dear Chairman Solomon:

The Providence Water Supply Board would like to take this opportunity to comment on H 7872 which would establish civil penalties for service interruptions by water suppliers if water service is not restored to ninety percent of affected customers within four hours of an unplanned outage.


Providence Water owns and operates the largest water utility in Rhode Island. We are responsible for supplying affordable, high-quality drinking water to more than 600,000 retail and wholesale consumers throughout the state.

Providence Water is an enterprise fund and prohibited by the RI Public Utilities Commission from earning a profit. Our operating budget is financed entirely by water rates. Excessive penalties associated with service interruptions would require that these costs be absorbed by our water system ratepayers and may result in a lack of funding to complete projects and programs which are in place to protect public health and ensure the sustainability of the water supply system.

Unplanned outages that last more than four hours are typically due to water main breaks, leaks and other emergencies. In these instances, we work to diligently restore water service as quickly as possible. Providence Water opposes H 7872, which would require our ratepayers to absorb costs associated with penalties for service interruption.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Respectfully,
PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD


Ricky Caruolo,
General Manager

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