



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 0985-2020, **Version:** 1

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The Director of Public Utilities has previously entered into emergency water service agreements with water utilities under which Columbus may provide, through service interconnections, potable water to the water distribution systems of these utilities in the event these utilities are unable to provide potable water due to an emergency. The Director of Public Utilities has likewise entered into emergency service agreements with other water utilities under which Columbus may receive, through service interconnections, potable water from these utilities in the event Columbus is unable to provide potable water due to an emergency.

On March 18, 2020, Mayor Ginther signed Executive Order 2020-01, which declared a state of emergency to protect the city and its citizens from the effects of COVID-19, a respiratory virus that can result in serious injury or death. It is necessary to authorize the Director of Public Utilities to expeditiously enter into additional emergency water service agreements with surrounding water utilities during the state of emergency in order to ensure continuous access of potable water to the city and surrounding communities to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This ordinance authorizes the Director of Public Utilities to enter into such agreements for the duration of the Mayor's state of emergency declared in response to COVID-19.

**EMERGENCY DESIGNATION:** This ordinance is being submitted as an emergency in order to avoid delays in services.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Increased revenue to the Columbus Division of Water should other water utilities require emergency water service, and increased expense to the Columbus Division of Water should Columbus be required to pay for emergency water service under an emergency service agreement.

To authorize the Director of Public Utilities to enter into emergency water service agreements during the COVID-19 state of emergency; and to declare an emergency.

**WHEREAS**, on March 18, 2020, Andrew Ginther, Mayor of the City of Columbus, signed Executive Order 2020-01, which declared a state of emergency in the City of Columbus to protect the lives and well-being of the citizens of the City as well as those who work, attend school, and visit the City, from the dangerous effects of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to ensure the ongoing availability of a sufficient potable water supply for Columbus and surrounding communities for the duration of the state of emergency to protect public health and safety and to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, it may be necessary for the Director of Public Utilities to expeditiously execute additional emergency water service agreements for the duration of the state of emergency for the protection of health and safety and to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, an emergency exists in that it is immediately necessary to authorize the Director of Public Utilities to execute emergency water service agreements to ensure the availability of a potable water supply to the city and surrounding communities to prevent the spread of COVID-19, NOW, THEREFORE:

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Director of Public Utilities is authorized, during the COVID-19 State of Emergency declared by City of Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther on March 18, 2020 in Executive Order 2020-01, to enter into emergency water service agreements with other water utilities under which Columbus may provide such utilities with potable water in the event that they are unable to provide potable water due to the COVID-19 or other emergency and to enter into emergency service agreements with other water utilities under which such utilities may provide Columbus with potable water in the event that Columbus is unable to provide potable water due to the COVID-19 or other emergency.

**SECTION 2.** That for reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.