

Act No. 79 (H.517). Conservation and land development; water resources; water classification

An act relating to the classification of State waters

This act changes the classification of State surface waters to establish four classes: Class A(1), Class A(2), Class B(1), and Class B(2).

Class A(1) waters are waters in a natural condition that have significant ecological value.

Class A(2) waters are waters of uniformly excellent character that, with filtration and disinfection, are suitable for a public water source.

Class B(1) waters are waters of which one or more uses are of higher quality than Class B(2) waters.

Class B(2) waters are waters that are suitable for: swimming and other primary contact recreation; irrigation and agricultural uses; aquatic biota and habitat; good aesthetic value; boating, fishing, and other recreational uses; and, with filtration and disinfection, a public water source. The act also provides that unless reclassified by rule, a water shall be designated Class B(2).

In addition, the act authorizes the Agency of Natural Resources to reclassify one or more uses of all or a portion of a water.

Effective Date: April 28, 2016