

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Twelve

An Act relative to water conservation.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 2 of chapter 21G of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of "Existing withdrawal" the
3 following definition:-

4 "Irrigation system", any assemblage of components, materials or special equipment
5 which is constructed and installed underground or on the surface for controlled dispersion of
6 water from any safe and suitable source, for the purpose of irrigating landscape vegetation or the
7 control of dust and erosion on landscaped areas, including integral pumping systems and
8 required wiring within that system and connections to a public or private water supply system;
9 provided however, that an irrigation system shall not include plumbing or a plumbing system as
10 defined in chapter 142.

11 SECTION 2. Said chapter 21G of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
12 following section:-

13 Section 21. (a) The department shall adopt, and may amend, regulations that require
14 system interruption devices for newly installed or renovated irrigation systems to override and
15 suspend the programmed operation of the irrigation system during periods of sufficient moisture.
16 The department shall specify the criteria that devices are required to meet under this section. Said
17 regulations shall: (i) be in accordance with generally accepted standards of irrigation practice;
18 (ii) include a requirement that all such devices be inspected at least every 3 years by a watersense
19 partner of the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and (iii) require each irrigation
20 contractor to complete and submit documentation, along with a reasonable fee, to the
21 municipality or the municipality's board of water commissioners for each newly installed or
22 renovated irrigation system in that municipality. The department may impose reasonable fines
23 for a violation of the regulations promulgated under this section.

(b) This section shall not apply to systems operating on golf courses or agricultural lands.