

# The Implications of the Clean Water For Delaware Act on Water Quality in the State of Delaware

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## Background:

377 of Delaware's Waterways have an excess amount of nutrients such as, nitrogen and phosphorus which cause large ripple effects on the local area. These ripple effects include making many waterways unsafe for drinking, swimming or supporting aquatic life. Although many localities have access to federal grants through the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act the federal funds are unable to meet the rising demands for cleaner water in the State of Delaware.

## Biggest Risks Associated with Delaware Waterways:

- 22,000 Delaware residents are at risk to coastal flooding
- The Brandywine Creek which is the primary supplier of drinking water to the City of Wilmington has high levels of nitrogen and sediments due to farm runoff
- White Clay, Red Clay creeks and Christina River all face similar farm pollution as the Brandywine Creek but also sees more urbanized pollution with concerns of banned pesticides DDT, dieldrin and chlordane and industrial chemicals such as PCBs and dioxin still having a notable presence in the water supply
- The Columbia Aquifer, which supplies drinking water to Sussex County and the City of Newark is facing pollutants from the agricultural industry with excess amounts of nitrates being found in the water supply
- In a ranking of Air and Water Quality of all 50 U.S. states Delaware ranked 46th

What Needs to Happen Next:  
The Clean Water for Delaware Act is still currently a bill in committee in the state legislature.

You can contact you local representatives and senators and tell them you would like them to support House Bill 200 when it leaves committee.



## References:

- <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/natural-environment/air-water-quality>
- <https://delawaretoday.com/life-style/whats-the-state-of-delawares-water/>

