House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 709

January Session, 2025

House Bill No. 7248

House of Representatives, April 15, 2025

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY of the 133rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING WELL WATER QUALITY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 25-32 of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (r) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(NEW) (r) The commissioner may implement policies and procedures necessary to administer provisions relating to cross connections between water supplies while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, provided the department posts such policies and procedures on the eRegulations System prior to adopting them. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this section shall be valid until final regulations are adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

Sec. 2. Subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 19a-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) (1) Any laboratory or firm which conducts a water quality test on a private well serving a residential property or semipublic well in the state shall, not later than thirty days after the completion of such test, report the results of such test to the local health authority of the municipality where the property is located and the Department of Public Health in a format specified by the department. Results submitted to the Department of Public Health or the local health authority pursuant to this subsection, information obtained from any Department of Public Health or local health authority investigation regarding those results and any Department of Public Health or local health authority study of morbidity and mortality regarding the results shall be confidential pursuant to section 19a-25, except the local health authority and the department may, if approved by the commissioner, disclose the results or information obtained from an investigation of the results to (A) the owner of the property on which the well is located, (B) a prospective buyer of such property who has signed a contract to purchase such property, (C) other persons or entities, when such disclosure is necessary to carry out a statutory or regulatory responsibility of the local health authority or department, **[**or**]** (D) an agent of a state agency, or (E) the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*from passage*	25-32(r)
Sec. 2	*from passage*	19a-37(c)(1)

PH *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill allows the Department of Public Health (DPH) to implement policies and procedures regarding cross-connections between water supplies while in the process of adopting related regulations. This results in no fiscal impact as the department has sufficient expertise to do so. The bill additionally makes a technical change that has no fiscal impact.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 7248

AN ACT CONCERNING WELL WATER QUALITY.

SUMMARY

This bill allows the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to implement policies and procedures needed to administer laws related to cross-connections between water supplies while in the process of adopting them as regulations. DPH must post the policies and procedures on the e-Regulations system before adopting them, and they are valid until final regulations are adopted.

By law, an environmental laboratory that conducts a water quality test on a private or semipublic well must report the results to DPH and the local health authority. With limited exceptions, the test results are confidential, along with information obtained from any related investigation or morbidity or mortality study. The bill adds a new exception, specifying that DPH and the local health authority, with the commissioner's approval, may disclose the test results or investigation information to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Existing law already allows disclosure to the following:

1. the property owner,
2. a prospective buyer who has signed a purchase contract,
3. a state agency's agent, or
4. other people or entities when disclosure is needed for DPH or the local health authority to carry out their duties under law or regulation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 22 Nay 10 (03/28/2025)