House of Representatives

File No. 936

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

(Reprint of File No. 709)

House Bill No. 7248
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 16, 2025

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 (1) the department posts such policies and procedures on the eRegulations System prior to adopting them, and (2) notice of intent to adopt regulations is published on the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after the date of implementation. 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 Subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 19a-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):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)

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.

House "A" adds a procedural requirement to the underlying bill, resulting in no fiscal impact.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 7248 (as amended by House "A")*

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. In doing so, the commissioner must post on the e-Regulations system (1) the policies and procedures before adopting them and (2) her intention to adopt regulations, no later than 20 days after implementing the policies and procedures, which 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.

*House Amendment "A" requires the DPH commissioner to post her intention to adopt regulations on the e-Regulations system within 20 days after implementing policies and procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

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