



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**Raised Bill No. 5519**

LCO No. 2782



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ON-SITE WASTEWATER  
SPECIALISTS AND WATER OPERATOR APPRENTICES.**

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Agent of the local director of health" means a person who holds  
3 an approval to investigate, inspect and approve plans relating to  
4 subsurface sewage disposal systems pursuant to section 19-13-B103e of  
5 the regulations of Connecticut state agencies;
- 6 (2) "Central subsurface sewage disposal system" or "central system"  
7 means a subsurface sewage disposal system serving (A) a residential  
8 building and one or more outbuildings, (B) a residential building and  
9 one or more nonresidential buildings, (C) two or more nonresidential  
10 buildings, or (D) two or more outbuildings;
- 11 (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;
- 12 (4) "Department" means the Department of Public Health;

13 (5) "Local director of health" means a director of a (A) municipal  
14 health department, appointed pursuant to section 19a-200 of the general  
15 statutes, or (B) district health department, appointed pursuant to section  
16 19a-242 of the general statutes;

17 (6) "On-site wastewater specialist" means a person who has obtained  
18 certification from the commissioner to (A) review and approve plans,  
19 (B) conduct regulatory inspections, (C) investigate complaints relating  
20 to subsurface sewage disposal systems within the jurisdiction of a local  
21 director of health, and (D) perform any other related duties as  
22 prescribed by the commissioner;

23 (7) "Phase I on-site wastewater specialist" means an on-site  
24 wastewater specialist certified by the commissioner to act as an on-site  
25 wastewater specialist for a subsurface sewage disposal system serving  
26 a building with a design flow of less than two thousand gallons per day,  
27 except subsurface sewage disposal systems serving such buildings  
28 designed by a professional engineer licensed or registered in the state,  
29 centralized sewage disposal systems and small community sewerage  
30 systems;

31 (8) "Phase II on-site wastewater specialist" means an on-site  
32 wastewater specialist certified by the commissioner to act as an on-site  
33 wastewater specialist for a subsurface sewage disposal system serving  
34 a building with a design flow between two thousand and ten thousand  
35 gallons per day;

36 (9) "Phase III on-site wastewater specialist" means an on-site  
37 wastewater specialist certified by the commissioner to act as an on-site  
38 wastewater specialist for an alternative on-site sewage treatment system  
39 serving a building with a design flow of ten thousand gallons per day  
40 or less; and

41 (10) "Small community sewerage system" means any subsurface  
42 sewage disposal system (A) serving two or more residential buildings  
43 or residential institutions located on the same lot, and (B) that is not

44 connected to a municipal sewerage system. "Small community sewerage  
45 system" does not include any subsurface sewage disposal system  
46 serving only a principal dwelling unit and an accessory apartment, as  
47 defined by section 8-1a of the general statutes, or a central subsurface  
48 sewage disposal system.

49 (b) (1) On and after October 1, 2026, no person, including a licensed  
50 environmental health specialist, as defined in section 20-358 of the  
51 general statutes, shall perform the duties of an on-site wastewater  
52 specialist unless such person is (A) certified by the commissioner  
53 pursuant to the provisions of this section, and (B) appointed by a local  
54 director of health to perform the duties of an on-site wastewater  
55 specialist as an employee or contractor of the municipal health  
56 department or health district. The local director of health shall maintain  
57 records of such appointments and provide the department a copy of, or  
58 access to, such records upon the commissioner's request.

59 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, an agent of the  
60 local director of health may perform the duties of an on-site wastewater  
61 specialist for a local director of health without obtaining certification  
62 pursuant to the provisions of this section, provided such agent applies  
63 for an initial certification as an on-site wastewater specialist pursuant to  
64 the provisions of this section not later than October 1, 2027.

65 (c) (1) An agent of the local director of health, approved pursuant to  
66 section 19-13-B103e(b)(1) of the regulations of Connecticut state  
67 agencies, shall seek initial certification as a Phase I on-site wastewater  
68 specialist and an agent of the local director of health, approved pursuant  
69 to section 19-13-B103e(b)(2) of the regulations of Connecticut state  
70 agencies, shall seek initial certification as a Phase II on-site wastewater  
71 specialist. After receiving initial certification, such certification shall be  
72 renewed in accordance with the provisions of subsection (e) of this  
73 section. On and after the date on which the commissioner begins issuing  
74 certifications pursuant to the provisions of this section, the  
75 commissioner shall not grant any approval of an agent of the local

76 director of health pursuant to section 19-13-B103e of the regulations of  
77 Connecticut state agencies.

78 (2) Employees or contractors of the department may conduct  
79 regulatory inspections and investigate complaints concerning  
80 subsurface sewage disposal systems on behalf of the department  
81 without obtaining certification as an on-site wastewater specialist  
82 pursuant to the provisions of this section.

83 (3) An applicant for certification as an on-site wastewater specialist  
84 may perform the duties of an on-site wastewater specialist as part of a  
85 practical component of a training course, as described in subsection (i)  
86 of this section, developed by the department that is taught by  
87 department staff or an approved training provider holding a  
88 certification for the certification level sought.

89 (d) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this  
90 section, a person may apply, in a form and manner prescribed by the  
91 commissioner, for an initial certification after (1) completing a training  
92 course prescribed by the commissioner, and (2) receiving a passing score  
93 on an examination prescribed by the commissioner for the on-site  
94 wastewater specialist certification level the applicant seeks. No person  
95 may apply for certification as a Phase III on-site wastewater specialist  
96 earlier than the date on which minimum requirements for alternative  
97 on-site sewage treatment systems are established in accordance with the  
98 provisions of section 19a-35a of the general statutes.

99 (e) There shall be no fee to apply for an initial on-site wastewater  
100 specialist certification or to renew such certification. A certification shall  
101 be renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88 of the  
102 general statutes, as amended by this act.

103 (f) The commissioner may require on-site wastewater specialists to  
104 attend conferences to provide information and updates regarding on-  
105 site sewage treatment systems, which may include, but need not be  
106 limited to, a review of the department's technical standards for the

107 siting, design and installation requirements of a subsurface sewage  
108 disposal system. The commissioner may conduct such conferences in  
109 person, online or by prerecorded online presentations. The  
110 commissioner shall not conduct more than two such conferences in any  
111 one calendar year.

112 (g) An on-site wastewater specialist shall only hold a certification as  
113 a Phase I, Phase II or Phase III on-site wastewater specialist and shall  
114 not hold more than one such certification at one time. A Phase I on-site  
115 wastewater specialist shall only perform activities associated with a  
116 Phase I on-site wastewater specialist certification. A Phase II on-site  
117 wastewater specialist may perform activities associated with a Phase I  
118 and Phase II on-site wastewater specialist certification. A Phase III on-  
119 site wastewater specialist may perform activities associated with Phase  
120 I and Phase II on-site wastewater specialist certification and activities  
121 associated with alternative on-site sewage treatment systems. No  
122 person shall apply for certification as a Phase II on-site wastewater  
123 specialist without having previously obtained certification as a Phase I  
124 on-site wastewater specialist or served as an agent of a local director of  
125 health prior to October 1, 2026. No person shall apply for certification as  
126 a Phase III on-site wastewater specialist without having previously  
127 obtained certification as a Phase II on-site wastewater specialist.

128 (h) The commissioner shall develop the following initial certification  
129 applications: (1) Phase I or Phase II on-site wastewater specialist for  
130 agents of local directors of health approved prior to October 1, 2026,  
131 which shall include an attestation of such approval prior to October 1,  
132 2026, (2) Phase I on-site wastewater specialist, (3) Phase II on-site  
133 wastewater specialist, and (4) Phase III on-site wastewater specialist.  
134 The commissioner shall also develop a renewal certification application  
135 and an application for training providers seeking the commissioner's  
136 approval to provide on-site wastewater specialist training courses  
137 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (i) of this section.

138 (i) The commissioner shall develop training courses and

139 corresponding examinations for Phase I, Phase II and Phase III on-site  
140 wastewater specialists. The training courses may include a practical  
141 component, plan reviews and homework. The commissioner may  
142 approve training providers to teach the courses. To be approved, a  
143 training provider shall demonstrate, in a form and manner prescribed  
144 by the commissioner, that the training course and its materials are  
145 consistent with the department's technical standards for the siting,  
146 design and installation of subsurface sewage disposal systems. Any  
147 approval granted pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall  
148 expire three years after the date of such approval. The commissioner  
149 may administer or contract with a testing center to administer training  
150 courses or certification examinations.

151 (j) The commissioner may adopt regulations concerning the  
152 certification of on-site wastewater specialists, in accordance with the  
153 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, that shall include, but  
154 need not be limited to: (1) The scope of duties performed by each  
155 certification of on-site wastewater specialist; (2) requirements and  
156 procedures for the issuance of an initial certification; (3) requirements  
157 and procedures to renew certification, in accordance with section 19-88  
158 of the general statutes; (4) standards and procedures for certification  
159 examinations administered by the commissioner or a testing center; (5)  
160 training standards required for initial and renewal certification; and (6)  
161 standards and procedures for the commissioner's approval of training  
162 providers and courses of study offered by training providers. The  
163 commissioner may implement policies and procedures necessary to  
164 implement the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting  
165 such policies and procedures as regulations, provided the commissioner  
166 publishes notice of intent to adopt regulations on the eRegulations  
167 System not later than twenty days after the date of implementation of  
168 such policies and procedures. Policies and procedures implemented  
169 pursuant to this subsection shall be valid until final regulations are  
170 adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general  
171 statutes.

172 (k) (1) The commissioner may take any disciplinary action against an  
173 on-site wastewater specialist permitted under section 19a-17 of the  
174 general statutes, except for the assessment of a civil penalty, for any of  
175 the following reasons: (A) Fraud or material deception in obtaining  
176 initial certification or renewal certification or the reinstatement of a  
177 certificate; (B) fraudulent practices including, but not limited to,  
178 acceptance of bribes in the performance of the on-site wastewater  
179 specialist's professional activities; (C) incompetent, negligent or illegal  
180 performance of the on-site wastewater specialist's professional duties;  
181 (D) conviction of the on-site wastewater specialist for a felony; or (E)  
182 failure of the on-site wastewater specialist to complete the mandatory  
183 training or attend mandatory conferences.

184 (2) The commissioner may take any disciplinary action against a  
185 training provider permitted under section 19a-17 of the general statutes,  
186 except for the assessment of a civil penalty, if the commissioner  
187 determines that (A) a training course's hours or materials were not  
188 consistent with the department's technical standards for the siting,  
189 design and installation of subsurface sewage disposal systems; or (B) the  
190 training provider engaged in incompetent, negligent or illegal activities  
191 in the provision of training courses.

192 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 19a-14 of the 2026 supplement to the  
193 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
194 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

195 (c) No board shall exist for the following professions that are licensed  
196 or otherwise regulated by the Department of Public Health:

197 (1) Speech and language pathologist and audiologist;

198 (2) Hearing instrument specialist;

199 (3) Nursing home administrator;

200 (4) Environmental health specialist;

- 201 (5) Subsurface sewage system installer or cleaner;
- 202 (6) Marital and family therapist and marriage and family therapist
- 203 associate;
- 204 (7) Nurse-midwife;
- 205 (8) Licensed clinical social worker;
- 206 (9) Respiratory care practitioner;
- 207 (10) Asbestos contractor, asbestos consultant and asbestos training
- 208 provider;
- 209 (11) Massage therapist;
- 210 (12) Registered nurse's aide;
- 211 (13) Radiographer;
- 212 (14) Dental hygienist;
- 213 (15) Dietitian-Nutritionist;
- 214 (16) Asbestos abatement worker;
- 215 (17) Asbestos abatement site supervisor;
- 216 (18) Licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor;
- 217 (19) Professional counselor and professional counselor associate;
- 218 (20) Acupuncturist;
- 219 (21) Occupational therapist and occupational therapist assistant;
- 220 (22) Lead abatement contractor, lead consultant contractor, lead
- 221 consultant, lead abatement supervisor, lead abatement worker, lead
- 222 training provider, lead inspector, lead inspector risk assessor and lead
- 223 planner-project designer;

224 (23) Emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical  
225 technician, emergency medical responder and emergency medical  
226 services instructor;

227 (24) Paramedic;

228 (25) Athletic trainer;

229 (26) Perfusionist;

230 (27) Master social worker subject to the provisions of section 20-195v;

231 (28) Radiologist assistant, subject to the provisions of section 20-74tt;

232 (29) Homeopathic physician;

233 (30) Certified water treatment plant operator, certified distribution  
234 system operator, certified small water system operator, certified  
235 backflow prevention device tester and certified cross connection survey  
236 inspector, including certified limited operators, certified conditional  
237 operators and certified operators in training;

238 (31) Tattoo technician;

239 (32) Genetic counselor;

240 (33) Behavior analyst;

241 (34) Art therapist;

242 (35) Esthetician;

243 (36) Eyelash technician; [and]

244 (37) Nail technician; and

245 (38) On-site wastewater specialist.

246 The department shall assume all powers and duties normally vested

247 with a board in administering regulatory jurisdiction over such  
248 professions. The uniform provisions of this chapter and chapters 368v,  
249 369 to 381a, inclusive, 383 to 388, inclusive, 393a, 395, 398, 399, 400a and  
250 400c, including, but not limited to, standards for entry and renewal;  
251 grounds for professional discipline; receiving and processing  
252 complaints; and disciplinary sanctions, shall apply, except as otherwise  
253 provided by law, to the professions listed in this subsection.

254 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 19a-14 of the 2026 supplement to the  
255 general statutes, as amended by section 196 of public act 25-168, is  
256 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
257 *2026*):

258 (c) No board shall exist for the following professions that are licensed  
259 or otherwise regulated by the Department of Public Health:

260 (1) Speech and language pathologist and audiologist;

261 (2) Hearing instrument specialist;

262 (3) Nursing home administrator;

263 (4) Environmental health specialist;

264 (5) Subsurface sewage system installer or cleaner;

265 (6) Marital and family therapist and marriage and family therapist  
266 associate;

267 (7) Nurse-midwife;

268 (8) Licensed clinical social worker;

269 (9) Respiratory care practitioner;

270 (10) Asbestos contractor, asbestos consultant and asbestos training  
271 provider;

- 272 (11) Massage therapist;
- 273 (12) Registered nurse's aide;
- 274 (13) Radiographer;
- 275 (14) Dental hygienist;
- 276 (15) Dietitian-Nutritionist;
- 277 (16) Asbestos abatement worker;
- 278 (17) Asbestos abatement site supervisor;
- 279 (18) Licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor;
- 280 (19) Professional counselor and professional counselor associate;
- 281 (20) Acupuncturist;
- 282 (21) Occupational therapist and occupational therapist assistant;
- 283 (22) Lead abatement contractor, lead consultant contractor, lead  
284 consultant, lead abatement supervisor, lead abatement worker, lead  
285 training provider, lead inspector, lead inspector risk assessor and lead  
286 planner-project designer;
- 287 (23) Emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical  
288 technician, emergency medical responder and emergency medical  
289 services instructor;
- 290 (24) Paramedic;
- 291 (25) Athletic trainer;
- 292 (26) Perfusionist;
- 293 (27) Master social worker subject to the provisions of section 20-195v;
- 294 (28) Radiologist assistant, subject to the provisions of section 20-74tt;

295 (29) Homeopathic physician;

296 (30) Certified water treatment plant operator, certified distribution  
297 system operator, certified small water system operator, certified  
298 backflow prevention device tester and certified cross connection survey  
299 inspector, including certified limited operators, certified conditional  
300 operators and certified operators in training;

301 (31) Tattoo technician;

302 (32) Genetic counselor;

303 (33) Behavior analyst;

304 (34) Art therapist;

305 (35) Esthetician;

306 (36) Eyelash technician;

307 (37) Nail technician; [and]

308 (38) On-site wastewater specialist; and

309 [(38)] (39) Lactation consultant.

310 The department shall assume all powers and duties normally vested  
311 with a board in administering regulatory jurisdiction over such  
312 professions. The uniform provisions of this chapter and chapters 368v,  
313 369 to 381a, inclusive, 382e to 388, inclusive, 393a, 395, 398, 399, 400a and  
314 400c, including, but not limited to, standards for entry and renewal;  
315 grounds for professional discipline; receiving and processing  
316 complaints; and disciplinary sanctions, shall apply, except as otherwise  
317 provided by law, to the professions listed in this subsection.

318 Sec. 4. Subsection (e) of section 19a-88 of the 2026 supplement to the  
319 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
320 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

321 (e) (1) Each person holding a license or certificate issued under  
322 section 19a-514, 20-65k, 20-74s, 20-185k, 20-185l, 20-195cc or 20-206ll and  
323 chapters 370 to 373, inclusive, 375, 378 to 381a, inclusive, 383 to 383c,  
324 inclusive, 383g, 384, 384a, 384b, 385, 393a, 395, 399 or 400a and section  
325 20-206n or 20-206o shall, annually, or, in the case of a person holding a  
326 license as a marital and family therapist associate under section 20-195c  
327 on or before twenty-four months after the date of initial licensure,  
328 during the month of such person's birth, apply for renewal of such  
329 license or certificate to the Department of Public Health, giving such  
330 person's name in full, such person's residence and business address and  
331 such other information as the department requests.

332 (2) Each person holding a license or certificate issued under section  
333 19a-514, and chapters 384a, 384c, 384d, 386, 387, 388 and 398 shall apply  
334 for renewal of such license or certificate once every two years, during  
335 the month of such person's birth, giving such person's name in full, such  
336 person's residence and business address and such other information as  
337 the department requests.

338 (3) Each person holding a certificate issued under section 20-195ttt  
339 shall apply for renewal of such certificate once every three years, during  
340 the month of such person's birth, giving such person's name in full, such  
341 person's residence and business address and such other information as  
342 the department requests.

343 (4) Each person holding a license or certificate issued pursuant to  
344 chapter 400c shall, annually, during the month of such person's birth,  
345 apply for renewal of such license or certificate to the department. Each  
346 lead training provider certified pursuant to chapter 400c and each  
347 asbestos training provider certified pursuant to chapter 400a shall,  
348 annually, during the anniversary month of such training provider's  
349 initial certification, apply for renewal of such certificate to the  
350 department.

351 (5) Each entity holding a license issued pursuant to section 20-475

352 shall, annually, during the anniversary month of initial licensure, apply  
353 for renewal of such license or certificate to the department.

354 (6) Each person holding a license issued pursuant to section 20-162bb  
355 shall, annually, during the month of such person's birth, apply for  
356 renewal of such license to the Department of Public Health, upon  
357 payment of a fee of three hundred twenty dollars, giving such person's  
358 name in full, such person's residence and business address and such  
359 other information as the department requests.

360 (7) Each person holding a license issued pursuant to section 20-278h  
361 shall, once every two years, during the anniversary month of initial  
362 licensure, apply for renewal of such license to the department.

363 (8) Each person holding a certificate pursuant to section 1 of this act  
364 shall, on or before three years after the date of issuance of an initial or  
365 renewal certification, apply for renewal of such license to the  
366 department.

367 Sec. 5. Subsection (e) of section 19a-88 of the 2026 supplement to the  
368 general statutes, as amended by section 197 of public act 25-168, is  
369 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
370 *2026*):

371 (e) (1) Each person holding a license or certificate issued under  
372 section 19a-514, 20-65k, 20-74s, 20-185k, 20-185l, 20-195cc or 20-206ll and  
373 chapters 370 to 373, inclusive, 375, 378 to 381a, inclusive, 383 to 383c,  
374 inclusive, 383g, 384, 384a, 384b, 385, 393a, 395, 399 or 400a and section  
375 20-206n or 20-206o shall, annually, or, in the case of a person holding a  
376 license as a marital and family therapist associate under section 20-195c  
377 on or before twenty-four months after the date of initial licensure,  
378 during the month of such person's birth, apply for renewal of such  
379 license or certificate to the Department of Public Health, giving such  
380 person's name in full, such person's residence and business address and  
381 such other information as the department requests.

382 (2) Each person holding a license or certificate issued under section  
383 19a-514, and chapters 382e, 384a, 384c, 384d, 386, 387, 388 and 398 shall  
384 apply for renewal of such license or certificate once every two years,  
385 during the month of such person's birth, giving such person's name in  
386 full, such person's residence and business address and such other  
387 information as the department requests.

388 (3) Each person holding a certificate issued under section 20-195ttt  
389 shall apply for renewal of such certificate once every three years, during  
390 the month of such person's birth, giving such person's name in full, such  
391 person's residence and business address and such other information as  
392 the department requests.

393 (4) Each person holding a license or certificate issued pursuant to  
394 chapter 400c shall, annually, during the month of such person's birth,  
395 apply for renewal of such license or certificate to the department. Each  
396 lead training provider certified pursuant to chapter 400c and each  
397 asbestos training provider certified pursuant to chapter 400a shall,  
398 annually, during the anniversary month of such training provider's  
399 initial certification, apply for renewal of such certificate to the  
400 department.

401 (5) Each entity holding a license issued pursuant to section 20-475  
402 shall, annually, during the anniversary month of initial licensure, apply  
403 for renewal of such license or certificate to the department.

404 (6) Each person holding a license issued pursuant to section 20-162bb  
405 shall, annually, during the month of such person's birth, apply for  
406 renewal of such license to the Department of Public Health, upon  
407 payment of a fee of three hundred twenty dollars, giving such person's  
408 name in full, such person's residence and business address and such  
409 other information as the department requests.

410 (7) Each person holding a license issued pursuant to section 20-278h  
411 shall, once every two years, during the anniversary month of initial  
412 licensure, apply for renewal of such license to the department.

413       (8) Each person holding a certificate pursuant to section 1 of this act  
414 shall, on or before three years after the date of issuance of an initial or  
415 renewal certification, apply for renewal of such license to the  
416 department.

417       Sec. 6. Subsection (n) of section 25-32 of the general statutes is  
418 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
419 *2026*):

420       (n) (1) On and after the effective date of regulations adopted under  
421 this subsection, no person shall operate any water treatment plant,  
422 water distribution system or small water system that treats or supplies  
423 water used or intended for use by the public, test any backflow  
424 prevention device, perform a cross connection survey without a  
425 certificate issued by the commissioner under this subsection or operate  
426 any water treatment plant or water distribution system as an operator-  
427 in-training unless such person is issued a certificate by the  
428 commissioner under this subsection. The commissioner shall adopt  
429 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to provide: (A) Standards for  
430 the operation of such water treatment plants, water distribution systems  
431 and small water systems; (B) standards and procedures for the issuance  
432 of certificates to operators and operators-in-training of such water  
433 treatment plants and water distribution systems and operators of small  
434 water systems, including, but not limited to, standards and procedures  
435 for the department's approval of third parties to administer certification  
436 examinations to such operators and operators-in-training; (C)  
437 procedures for the renewal of such certificates to operators every three  
438 years; (D) standards for training required for the issuance or renewal of  
439 a certificate; (E) standards and procedures for the department's  
440 approval of course providers and courses of study as they relate to  
441 certified operators and certified operators-in-training of water treatment  
442 plants and water distribution systems and certified operators of small  
443 water systems and certified persons who test backflow prevention  
444 devices or perform cross connection surveys for initial and renewal  
445 applications; and (F) standards and procedures for the issuance and

446 renewal of certificates to persons who test backflow prevention devices  
447 or perform cross connection surveys. Such regulations shall be  
448 consistent with applicable federal law and guidelines for operator  
449 certification programs promulgated by the United States Environmental  
450 Protection Agency. For purposes of this subsection, "small water  
451 system" means a public water system, as defined in section 25-33d, that  
452 serves less than one thousand persons and has no treatment or has only  
453 treatment that does not require any chemical treatment, process  
454 adjustment, backwashing or media regeneration by an operator.

455 (2) The commissioner may take any disciplinary action set forth in  
456 section 19a-17, except for the assessment of a civil penalty under  
457 subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 19a-17, against an operator,  
458 an operator-in-training, a person who tests backflow prevention devices  
459 or a person who performs cross connection surveys holding a certificate  
460 issued under this subsection for any of the following reasons: (A) Fraud  
461 or material deception in procuring a certificate, the renewal of a  
462 certificate or the reinstatement of a certificate; (B) fraud or material  
463 deception in the performance of the certified operator's or certified  
464 operator-in-training's professional activities; (C) incompetent, negligent  
465 or illegal performance of the certified operator's or certified operator-in-  
466 training's professional activities; (D) conviction of the certified operator  
467 or certified operator-in-training for a felony; or (E) failure of the certified  
468 operator or certified operator-in-training to complete the training  
469 required under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

470 (3) The commissioner may issue an initial certificate to perform a  
471 function set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection upon receipt of a  
472 completed application, in a form prescribed by the commissioner,  
473 together with an application fee as follows: (A) For a water treatment  
474 plant, water distribution system or small water system operator  
475 certificate, or operator-in-training certificate for a water treatment plant  
476 or water distribution system, two hundred twenty-four dollars, except  
477 there shall be no such application fee required for a student enrolled in  
478 an accredited high school small water system operator certification

479 course; (B) for a backflow prevention device tester certificate, one  
480 hundred fifty-four dollars; and (C) for a cross-connection survey  
481 inspector certificate, one hundred fifty-four dollars. A certificate issued  
482 pursuant to this subdivision shall expire three years from the date of  
483 issuance unless renewed by the certificate holder prior to such  
484 expiration date, except a certificate issued for an operator-in-training  
485 pursuant to this section shall expire six years from the date of issuance  
486 and shall not be renewable. The commissioner may renew a certificate,  
487 other than a certificate for an operator-in-training, for an additional  
488 three years upon receipt of a completed renewal application, in a form  
489 prescribed by the commissioner, together with a renewal application fee  
490 as follows: (i) For a water treatment plant, water distribution system or  
491 small water system operator certificate, ninety-eight dollars; (ii) for a  
492 backflow prevention device tester certificate, sixty-nine dollars; and (iii)  
493 for a cross-connection survey inspector certificate, sixty-nine dollars.

494 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (3) of this  
495 subsection, the commissioner may issue a certification to an applicant  
496 for water treatment plant operator, water distribution system operator  
497 or small water system operator under this subsection upon receiving  
498 such applicant's written application, in a form and manner prescribed  
499 by the commissioner, if the applicant (A) is an apprentice registered  
500 with the Labor Department, (B) has successfully completed an  
501 apprenticeship approved by the Labor Department and conducted in  
502 accordance with sections 31-22m to 31-22u, inclusive, for the type of  
503 system for which the apprentice is seeking certification, and (C) has  
504 passed a written examination prescribed in the regulations of  
505 Connecticut state agencies after completion of an approved registered  
506 apprenticeship program for the classification level sought for  
507 certification. An apprentice shall provide written notification to the  
508 department not later than ten days before participating in such  
509 apprenticeship program. Such written notification shall be in a form and  
510 manner prescribed by the commissioner and shall include, but need not  
511 be limited to, information regarding the entity providing the

512 apprenticeship program and the certified water operator or operators  
513 directly supervising such program. A registered apprentice shall be  
514 under direct supervision of a certified water operator of the type of  
515 system for which the apprentice is seeking certification but shall not  
516 make any process and system integrity decisions concerning the quality  
517 and quantity of water that affects public health. Failure of a certified  
518 water operator to provide the supervision or training required under  
519 this section shall be grounds for disciplinary action against the certified  
520 water operator pursuant to the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	19a-14(c)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	19a-14(c)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	19a-88(e)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	19a-88(e)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	25-32(n)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish certification and training requirements for on-site wastewater specialists.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*