



Substitute House Bill No. 5518

Public Act No. 26-142

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SUBSURFACE SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, WATER OPERATOR APPRENTICES AND VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER STATUTES.

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

Section 1. Section 21a-150 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

For the purposes of this section and sections 21a-150a to 21a-150j, inclusive, as amended by this act:

(1) "Approved laboratory" means a laboratory [registered] certified by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-29a, as amended by this act, or certified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to analyze drinking water;

(2) "Approved source" means the source of any bottled water, including, but not limited to, a spring, artesian well, drilled well or public water supply, that, for a source located in the state, has been inspected and approved by the Department of Public Health, or for a source located out of state, has been inspected and approved by the government entities having jurisdiction to regulate the use of such out-

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

of-state source;

(3) "Artesian well water" means bottled natural water obtained from a well tapping an aquifer in which the level of the water is above the bottom of the confining bed of the aquifer and in which the hydraulic pressure of the water in the aquifer is greater than the atmospheric pressure;

(4) "Bottled water", or any term of similar import, means water obtained from an approved source that is packaged for sale or distribution. "Bottled water" shall not include any soda or seltzer that is packaged for sale or distribution;

(5) "Bottler" means any person, firm or corporation engaging in the business of bottling or distributing water for sale or distribution;

(6) "Distilled water" means purified water that has been produced by a process of distillation;

(7) "Drinking water" means bottled water that has been distilled, fluoridated or purified or that has been disinfected by a process of ozonation and filtration or any substantially similar disinfection process;

(8) "Fluoridated water" means bottled water that contains fluoride ions in an amount not less than eight-tenths of one milligram per liter and not more than one and two-tenths milligrams per liter or such alternative concentration limit as the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, with the advice and assistance of the Commissioner of Public Health, may determine by regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 and that otherwise complies with the provisions of Subsections (b), (c) and (d) of 21 CFR 165.110;

(9) "Mineral water" means natural water that contains not less than five hundred parts per million total dissolved solids;

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

(10) "Natural water" means bottled spring water, artesian well water or well water, that has been obtained from any approved source other than a public water supply and that has not been modified by blending with water from any other source or by the addition or deletion of any mineral other than any addition or deletion that may occur as a result of ozonation, filtration or any other substantially similar disinfection process;

(11) "Perfluoroalkyl substance" means perfluorooctanoic acid, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, perfluorononanoic acid, perfluorohexane sulfonic acid, hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid or any other perfluoroalkyl substance that is listed in 40 CFR 141.903, as amended from time to time, or set forth in regulations adopted pursuant to section 25-32, as amended by this act;

[(11)] (12) "Principal display panel" means the portion of a label on any container or package that is most likely to be displayed, presented or examined under normal and customary conditions of display and purchase of bottled water;

[(12)] (13) "Public water supply" means any individual, partnership, association, corporation, municipality or other entity, or the lessee thereof, that owns, maintains, operates, manages, controls or employs any pond, lake, reservoir, well, stream or distributing plant or system for the purpose of supplying water by service connections or pipe distribution systems to two or more hotels, motels, boardinghouses, apartments, stores, office buildings, institutions, mechanical or manufacturing establishments or other places of business or industry to which water is supplied by a water company or to twenty-five or more persons on a regular basis;

[(13)] (14) "Purified water" means bottled water that is produced by distillation, deionization, reverse osmosis or any other suitable process and that meets standards established for purified water in the twentieth

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

edition of the United States Pharmacopoeia;

[(14)] (15) "Spring water" means natural water obtained from an underground formation from which water flows naturally to the surface of the earth; [and]

(16) "Unregulated contaminant" means any chemical, physical, biological or radiological substance in a bottled water source, except a perfluoroalkyl substance, for which there is no state or federal statutory or regulatory drinking water health standard, and that is listed in 40 CFR 141.40, as amended from time to time; and

[(15)] (17) "Well water" means natural water obtained from a hole bored, drilled or otherwise constructed in the ground, that taps the water of an aquifer.

Sec. 2. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 21a-150a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(2) A bottler selling or distributing bottled water obtained from a source located in the state shall obtain approval for the use of such source from the Department of Public Health. The Department of Public Health shall inspect each bottled water source located in the state and, if such source meets quality and safety requirements, issue an approval for such source. An approval issued by the Department of Public Health pursuant to this subsection shall contain any terms or conditions deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Public Health to address the quality and safety of the source and shall expire three years from the date of issue.

Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 21a-150b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

(c) (1) The Commissioner of Public Health shall issue a schedule containing (A) a list of perfluoroalkyl substances and unregulated contaminants, and (B) acceptable levels for (i) such perfluoroalkyl substances, based on levels set forth in 40 CFR 141.903, as amended from time to time, and (ii) unregulated contaminants, based on levels set forth in 40 CFR 141.40, as amended from time to time.

[(c)] (2) On or before January 1, [2022] 2027, and annually thereafter, qualified employees of a bottler shall [(1)] (A) collect samples of water from each approved source that is located in the state, that has been inspected and approved by the Department of Public Health pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 21a-150a, as amended by this act, and is used by such bottler, prior to any treatment, to test for compliance with the (i) levels or standards governing perfluoroalkyl substances and [other] unregulated contaminants established in the most recent schedule issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, and (ii) physical, chemical, radiological and microbiological standards established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 25-32, as amended by this act, and [(2)] (B) have such samples analyzed by an environmental laboratory [registered] certified by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-29a, as amended by this act, that has the Environmental Protection Agency approved certification to conduct such analysis. [As used in this subsection, "unregulated contaminant" means a contaminant for which the Commissioner of Public Health, pursuant to section 22a-471, has set a level at which such contaminant creates or can reasonably be expected to create an unacceptable risk of injury to the health or safety of persons drinking such source of water.]

Sec. 4. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 21a-150c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(2) Collect, not less than once annually, a representative sample from

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

a batch or segment of a continuous production of each type of bottled water sold by such bottler in this state, and have such sample analyzed by an approved laboratory to determine whether such sample complies with the chemical, inorganic, organic, physical and radiological standards set forth in regulations adopted by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section [19a-36] 25-32, as amended by this act, concerning public drinking water. Each bottler that uses water obtained from an out-of-state source may meet the requirements of this subdivision by demonstrating compliance with substantially similar standards established by the government entity having jurisdiction to regulate the use of such source.

Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 21a-150d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(d) A bottler shall report, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health, the results of the analysis conducted pursuant to subsection (c) of section 21a-150b, as amended by this act, to the Department of Public Health and the Department of Consumer Protection not later than nine calendar days after receipt of the results from the environmental laboratory. If such results [exceed the level set by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to section 22a-471 for such perfluoroalkyl substances and other unregulated contaminants] do not meet the requirements for (1) levels or standards governing perfluoroalkyl substances and unregulated contaminants established pursuant to the provisions of section 21a-150b, as amended by this act, or (2) physical, chemical, radiological and microbiological standards established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 25-32, as amended by this act, the Department of Public Health may require such bottler to discontinue use of its approved source until such source [no longer creates an unacceptable risk of injury to the health or safety of persons drinking the bottled water that comes from such source] meets

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

the requirements for such levels or standards. The Department of Public Health shall notify the Department of Consumer Protection of any source for which the Department of Public Health has discontinued use until such source no longer creates an unacceptable risk of injury to the health or safety of the persons drinking the bottled water that comes from such source. [As used in this subsection, "unregulated contaminant" means a contaminant for which the Commissioner of Public Health, pursuant to section 22a-471, has set a level at which such contaminant creates or can reasonably be expected to create an unacceptable risk of injury to the health or safety of the persons drinking such source of water.]

Sec. 6. Section 19a-37k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

The owner of any residential or commercial property shall notify each tenant of any leased or rented unit located on such property and the lessee of such property whenever any testing of the water supply for such property indicates that the water exceeds [a] any maximum contaminant level [applicable to] for water supply systems [for any contaminant listed] set forth in the regulations of Connecticut state agencies or for [any contaminant listed on the state drinking water action level list established pursuant to section 22a-471] perfluoroalkyl substances and unregulated contaminants established pursuant to the provisions of section 21a-150b, as amended by this act. As soon as practicable, but not later than forty-eight hours after receiving notification of the results of such testing, the owner shall forward a copy of such notification to each such tenant and lessee. The local director of health shall take all reasonable steps to verify that such owner forwarded the notice required pursuant to this section.

Sec. 7. Section 19a-29a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Environmental laboratory" means any facility or other area, including, but not limited to, an outdoor area where testing occurs, used for microbiological, chemical, radiological or other analyte testing of drinking waters, ground waters, sea waters, rivers, streams and surface waters, recreational waters, fresh water sources, wastewaters, swimming pools, construction, renovation and demolition building materials, soil, solid waste, animal and plant tissues, sewage, sewage effluent, sewage sludge or any other matrix for the purpose of providing information on the sanitary quality or the amount of pollution or any substance prejudicial to health or the environment. "Environmental laboratory" does not include a publicly-owned treatment works, as defined in section 22a-521, that performs only physical, residue, microbiological and biological oxygen demand tests for its own facility for which results are required by or submitted to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to comply with permits or authorizations issued pursuant to section 22a-6k, 22a-430 or 22a-430b, or a pollution abatement facility, as defined in either section 22a-423 or 22a-475, that tests for pH, turbidity, conductivity, salinity and oxidation-reduction potential, and tests for residual chlorine for its own facility for which results are required by or submitted to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to comply with permits or authorizations issued pursuant to section 22a-6k, 22a-430 or 22a-430b;

(2) "Analyte" means a microbiological, chemical, radiological or other component of a matrix being measured by an analytical test; [and]

(3) "Certification" means an approval issued by the Department of Public Health to an environmental laboratory to operate and that sets forth the specific analyte that may be tested and specific testing method that may be utilized by the environmental laboratory;

[(3)] (4) "Matrix" means the substance or medium in which an analyte

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

[is] may be contained [,] that may include drinking water or wastewater;

(5) "Out-of-state environmental laboratory" means an environmental laboratory that is located and physically operates in another state where the results of any testing conducted are used to demonstrate compliance with any statutory or regulatory requirements of this state; and

(6) "Service center" means a collection site located in the state operated solely for the purpose of collecting samples to be tested at a certified environmental laboratory or an out-of-state environmental laboratory.

(b) The Department of Public Health shall [(1)] adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish [reasonable] standards governing environmental laboratory operations and facilities, including, but not limited to, (1) service centers, (2) personnel qualifications, (3) certification, [for] (4) testing [,] for analytes, (5) levels of acceptable proficiency in testing programs approved by the department, (6) the collection, acceptance and suitability of samples for analysis, and (7) such other pertinent laboratory functions, including the establishment of advisory committees, as may be necessary to ensure environmental quality, public health and safety. [, and (2) establish one or more schedules of the amounts of civil penalties that may be imposed under this section. Each registered environmental laboratory shall comply with all standards for environmental laboratories established by the department and shall be subject to inspection by said department, including inspection of all records necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. The Commissioner of Public Health may revoke or otherwise limit the license of any environmental laboratory that fails to comply with the provisions of this section or regulations adopted under this section.]

(c) [The Commissioner of Public Health shall determine whether it is necessary for the protection of the public health or the environment for

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

an environmental laboratory to be registered and to have certification to conduct a test for an analyte in a matrix. If the commissioner determines that it is necessary for the environmental laboratory to be registered, such environmental laboratory shall obtain from the commissioner a certification to conduct such tests for analytes.] No person shall operate, manage, own or control an environmental laboratory that tests for analytes identified on the list published by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (d) of this section for the purpose of providing information on the sanitary quality or the amount of pollution of any substance prejudicial to health or the environment [for which the commissioner has determined registration and certification is required without having first registered and obtained such certification] without a certification. The commissioner shall not issue a certification to an environmental laboratory until such environmental laboratory demonstrates compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

(d) The commissioner shall, annually, publish a list setting forth all analytes and matrices for which a certification for testing is required. Such list shall include the specific methods acceptable for all testing of analytes and matrices.

(e) Each application for [registration of an environmental laboratory and for certification for testing any analyte] certification shall be (1) made on forms provided by said department, [shall be] (2) except for an environmental lab owned or operated by the state, accompanied by a fee of one thousand two hundred fifty dollars, and [shall be] (3) executed by the owner or owners or by a responsible officer authorized to do so by the agency, [firm or corporation] person or entity owning the environmental laboratory. Upon receipt of any such application, the department shall make such inspections and investigations as are necessary and shall deny [registration] certification when operation of the environmental laboratory would be in violation of applicable statutes or regulations or prejudicial to the health of the public.

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

[Registration] Certification shall not be in force until notice of its effective date and term has been sent to the applicant.

(f) Each [registration or] certification shall be issued for a period of not less than twenty-four or more than twenty-seven months. [from any deadline for applications established by the commissioner.] Renewal applications shall be made (1) biennially within the twenty-fourth month of the current registration; (2) before any change in ownership is made; and (3) prior to any major expansion or alteration in, or changing of, quarters.

(g) This section shall not apply to any environmental laboratory that only provides laboratory services or information for the agency, person [, firm or corporation] or entity which owns or operates such laboratory and uses laboratory results solely for such agency's, person's or entity's own information. No agency, person or entity shall use such results to demonstrate compliance with any statutory or regulatory requirement. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, results from analyses performed by certified water operators, or persons under the supervision of certified water operators, at drinking water treatment facilities may be used to confirm treatment effectiveness and for regulatory reporting, when permitted by applicable law.

(h) If, upon review, investigation or inspection, the [Commissioner of Public Health determines an] commissioner determines a certified environmental laboratory has violated any provision of this section or regulations adopted under this section, the commissioner may impose a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars per violation per day and issue such other orders as the commissioner determines necessary to protect the public health. Upon notice of the issuance of an order or imposition of the civil penalty, the commissioner shall provide the environmental laboratory with an opportunity for a hearing. The commissioner (1) may take any of the actions authorized under section 19a-494 against an environmental laboratory that fails to comply with

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

the provisions of this section or regulations adopted thereunder, and (2) shall summarily suspend the certification of an environmental laboratory in advance of a final adjudication or during the appeals process if the commissioner finds that the environmental laboratory presents a clear and present danger to the public health and safety if allowed to continue operating. Governmental immunity shall not be a defense against the imposition of any civil penalty imposed pursuant to this section. In determining the amount of the civil penalty to be imposed on an environmental laboratory, the commissioner shall consider the degree of the threat to public health or the environment, the amount necessary to achieve compliance, and the history of compliance [of] by the environmental laboratory. Any order or civil penalty issued under this provision may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of section 4-183.

(i) The failure of an environmental laboratory to pay a civil penalty imposed by the commissioner shall be grounds for revocation of the environmental laboratory's [registration and certification for testing] certification.

(j) The commissioner may order an [unregistered] environmental laboratory that is not certified to test an analyte to cease operations. The commissioner may impose a civil fine not to exceed five thousand dollars per violation per day to an environmental laboratory for operating without a certification.

(k) The commissioner may request the Attorney General to petition the Superior Court for an order to aid in enforcement of any provision of this section.

(l) An out-of-state environmental laboratory that has not been issued a certification by the commissioner shall not operate a service center without obtaining approval from the commissioner. An out-of-state environmental laboratory seeking to operate a service center shall apply

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

for such approval in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner may approve a service center operated by an out-of-state environmental laboratory if such environmental laboratory demonstrates that (1) it maintains an active certification from the state in which the environmental laboratory is located to test for an analyte using a specific method on the list published pursuant to subsection (d) of this section; and (2) the policies and procedures governing the service center are sufficient to protect the integrity of the samples to be tested. Such approval shall expire not later than two years after the date on which the commissioner issues an initial approval and may be renewed for a period of two years in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner may inspect a service center operated by an out-of-state environmental laboratory at any time. The commissioner may revoke an approval obtained pursuant to the provisions of this subsection if the commissioner determines that revocation is necessary to protect the public health. The commissioner may issue a civil fine up to five thousand dollars if the commissioner determines that the out-of-state environmental laboratory violated any provision of this section or regulations adopted thereunder per violation per day. In assessing the amount of such civil penalty, the commissioner shall consider the factors described in subsection (h) of this section. Upon notice of the imposition of the civil penalty, the commissioner shall provide the out-of-state environmental laboratory with an opportunity for a hearing. Any revocation or civil penalty issued under this subsection may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of section 4-183.

Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 19a-14d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) An occupational or professional license, permit, certification or registration issued by the Department of Public Health pursuant to

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

chapter 368v, 370, 372, 373, 375, 375a, 376, 376a, 376b, 376c, 377, 378, 378a, 379, 379a, 380, 381, 381a, 381b, 382a, 382b, 382c, 383, 383a, 383b, 383c, 383d, 383e, 383f, 383g, 383h, 384, 384a, 384b, 384c, 384d, 385, 386, 387, 387a, 388, 388a, 393a, 395, 397a, 398, 399, [400a,] 400c or 474 shall be issued, in the occupation or profession applied for and at a practice level determined by the department, to a person, including, but not limited to, an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States or such person's spouse, if:

(1) The person holds a valid license, permit, certification or registration in at least one other jurisdiction in the United States in the occupation or profession applied for;

(2) The person has practiced under such license, permit, certification or registration for not less than four years;

(3) The person is in good standing in all jurisdictions in the United States in which he or she holds a license, permit, certification or registration and has not had a license, permit, certification or registration revoked or discipline imposed by any jurisdiction in the United States, does not have a complaint, allegation or investigation related to unprofessional conduct pending in any jurisdiction, and has not voluntarily surrendered a license, permit, certification or registration while under investigation for unprofessional conduct in any jurisdiction;

(4) The person satisfies any background check or character and fitness check required of other applicants for the license, permit, certification or registration; and

(5) The person pays all fees required of other applicants for the license, permit, certification or registration.

Sec. 9. Section 19a-332 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

As used in subsection (c) of section 19a-14 and sections 19a-332 to 19a-332e, inclusive, as amended by this act, 20-435 to 20-442, inclusive, as amended by this act, and 52-577a:

(1) "Asbestos" means the asbestiform varieties of actinolite, amosite, anthophyllite, chrysotile, crocidolite and tremolite;

(2) "Asbestos abatement" means the removal, encapsulation, enclosure, renovation, repair, demolition or other disturbance of asbestos-containing materials or suspect asbestos-containing materials, but does not include activities which are related to (A) the removal or repair of asbestos cement pipe and are performed by employees of a water company as defined in section 25-32a, or (B) the removal of nonfriable asbestos-containing material found exterior to a building or structure other than material defined as regulated asbestos-containing material in 40 CFR 61, the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, as amended from time to time;

(3) "Asbestos abatement worker" means any employee of a licensed asbestos contractor who engages in asbestos abatement, has completed a training program approved by the department and has been issued a certificate by the [department] commissioner;

(4) "Asbestos abatement site supervisor" means any asbestos abatement worker employed by a licensed asbestos contractor who has been specifically trained as a supervisor in a training program approved by the [department] commissioner and who has been issued a certificate by the [department] commissioner;

(5) "Asbestos-containing material" means material composed of asbestos of any type and in an amount equal to or greater than one per cent by weight, either alone or mixed with other fibrous or nonfibrous material;

(6) "Asbestos contractor" means any person or entity engaged in

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

asbestos abatement [whose employees actually perform] that actually performs the asbestos abatement work and who has been issued a license by the commissioner;

(7) "Asbestos consultant" means any person who engages in any activity directly involved with asbestos consultation services and who has been issued a [certificate] license by the commissioner; [and a license by the department;]

(8) "Asbestos consultation services" means the inspection or evaluation of a building for asbestos hazards, including, but not limited to, the development of asbestos abatement plans, site inspections, air monitoring and provisions of industrial hygiene services related to asbestos abatement;

(9) "Authorized agent" means an officer or employee duly designated by the commissioner;

(10) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

(11) "Department" means the Department of Public Health; and

(12) "Suspect asbestos-containing materials" means interior and exterior materials that have a reasonable likelihood of containing asbestos based on their appearance, composition and use.

Sec. 10. Section 20-435 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

[On and after one year following the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-440, no] No person or entity shall provide services as an asbestos contractor in this state without a license issued by the Commissioner of Public Health. A person who provides services as an asbestos contractor shall not perform any duties associated with those of an asbestos abatement site supervisor unless

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

such person is certified pursuant to the provisions of section 20-438, as amended by this act. Applications for such license shall be made to the Department of Public Health on forms provided by it, shall be accompanied by a fee of six hundred twenty-five dollars and shall contain such information regarding the applicant's qualifications as the [department] commissioner may require in regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-440, as amended by this act, including, but not limited to, proof of a valid certification as an asbestos abatement site supervisor if the applicant is an individual, and documentation demonstrating that all employees have passed a training course, as defined in section 20-439, as amended by this act, approved by the [department and have been issued a certificate by the department] commissioner. The department shall approve the technical, equipment and personnel resources of each applicant. No person or entity shall be issued a license to act as an asbestos contractor unless [he] such person or entity obtains such approval. The commissioner may issue a license under this section to any person [who] or entity that is licensed in another state under a law [which] that provides standards which are equal to or higher than those of Connecticut and is not subject to any unresolved complaints or pending disciplinary actions. Licenses issued pursuant to this section shall be renewed annually in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88, as amended by this act, upon payment of a fee of six hundred twenty-five dollars.

Sec. 11. Section 20-436 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) [On and after one year following the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-440, no] No person shall [act as an] provide asbestos consultant services in this state without a license issued by the commissioner. Applications for such license shall be made to the department on forms provided by it, and shall be accompanied by a fee of two hundred fifty dollars, and shall contain such information

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

regarding the applicant's qualifications and experience [in asbestos-related consultations as the department] related to asbestos consultation services, including supervised field experience related to asbestos consultation services, as the commissioner may require in regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-440, as amended by this act. [Except as provided in this section, no person shall be licensed as an asbestos consultant unless he completes a training course approved by the department, passes an examination prescribed by the department, receives a certificate issued by the department and satisfies employment experience and educational requirements established by the commissioner pursuant to section 20-441.] An applicant may apply for licensure as an asbestos consultant in one or more of the asbestos consultant services disciplines of inspector, management planner, project designer or project monitor. The commissioner shall not issue a license pursuant to the provisions of this section unless an applicant (1) has successfully completed a training program approved by the commissioner pursuant to the provisions of section 20-439, as amended by this act, in the applicant's chosen asbestos consultant services discipline, and (2) satisfies the experience and educational requirements established in regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to section 20-440, as amended by this act. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, an applicant need not be licensed while in the process of completing any supervised field experience requirements required by regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-440, as amended by this act.

(b) The commissioner may issue a license under this section without examination to any person who is licensed in another state under a law [which] that provides standards equal to or higher than those of Connecticut and is not subject to any unresolved complaints or pending disciplinary actions. Licenses issued pursuant to this section shall be renewed annually in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88, as amended by this act, upon payment of a fee of two hundred fifty dollars.

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

[(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, a person who between July 1, 1985, and November 1, 1994, has been employed for a minimum of two years as an asbestos consultant may be licensed as an asbestos consultant without the educational requirements established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.]

Sec. 12. Section 20-437 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

[On and after one year following the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-440, no] No person shall be employed as an asbestos abatement worker unless such [worker] person has completed a training program on asbestos hazards and abatement procedures approved by the [department] commissioner pursuant to section 20-439, as amended by this act, and has been issued a certificate by the [department] commissioner. Applications for such certificate shall be made to the department on forms provided by the department and shall contain such information regarding the applicant's qualifications as may be required in regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-440, as amended by this act, and shall be accompanied by a fee of fifty dollars. The [department] commissioner may issue a certificate under this section to any person who is licensed or certified in another state under a law [which] that provides standards which are equal to or higher than those of this state, provided such person is not subject to any unresolved complaints or pending disciplinary actions. Certificates issued pursuant to this section shall be renewed annually in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88, as amended by this act, upon payment of a fee of fifty dollars.

Sec. 13. Section 20-438 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

[On and after one year following the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-440, no] No person shall be employed as

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

an asbestos abatement site supervisor unless such [worker] person has completed a training program on the supervision of asbestos abatement approved by the [department] commissioner pursuant to section 20-439, as amended by this act, and has been issued a certificate by the [department] commissioner. Applications for such certificate shall be made to the department on forms provided by the department and shall contain such information regarding the applicant's qualifications as may be required in regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-440, as amended by this act, and shall be accompanied by a fee of one hundred dollars. The [department] commissioner may issue a certificate under this section to any person who is licensed or certified in another state under a law which provides standards which are equal to or higher than those of the state of Connecticut, provided such person is not subject to any unresolved complaints or pending disciplinary actions. Certificates issued pursuant to this section shall be renewed annually in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88, as amended by this act, upon payment of a fee of one hundred dollars.

Sec. 14. Section 20-439 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

[For purposes of this section, "asbestos training provider"] (a) As used in this section: (1) "Asbestos training provider" means a person or entity that offers a training program for asbestos abatement or asbestos [consultation] consultant services and [certifies] issues a certificate of completion for asbestos abatement workers, asbestos abatement site supervisors [and] or asbestos consultants [. On and after October 1, 2017, each asbestos training provider shall be certified by the department. The department shall issue an initial certification of a provider upon the provider's completion of an application and payment of a fee of fifty dollars. The certification] in accordance with the requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's model accreditation plan or equivalent training standards recognized by the commissioner;

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

and (2) "training course" means a specific course offered as part of a training program by a certified asbestos training provider for asbestos abatement, asbestos site supervision or asbestos consultant services and approved in accordance with this section.

(b) No person or entity shall act as an asbestos training provider without a certificate issued by the commissioner. The commissioner may issue such certificate upon the (1) applicant's submission of a complete application, (2) payment of a fee of fifty dollars, and (3) commissioner's determination that the applicant complies with any requirements established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-440, as amended by this act, including, but not limited to, standards for the qualifications of instructors, recordkeeping and documentation requirements for training course completion. Each certificate issued pursuant to this section shall be renewed annually in accordance with the provisions of subsection (e) of section 19a-88, as amended by this act, upon payment of a fee of fifty dollars.

(c) An asbestos training provider shall submit any training program to the commissioner for approval prior to implementing such training program. The [department] commissioner shall approve a training program for asbestos abatement or asbestos consultant services, including each training course offered as part of such training program, upon determination that such program complies with the requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's model accreditation plan and such requirements as may be established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-440, as amended by this act. An asbestos training provider shall submit each training program to the commissioner for reapproval once every three years. Each application or reapplication for approval of a training program shall be accompanied by a fee of five hundred dollars. Each application for approval or reapproval of a refresher training program [as required by section 20-441] shall be accompanied by a fee of two hundred fifty

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

dollars. Each asbestos training provider shall furnish the department with a list of the persons who have successfully completed [the] a training program or training course [within] not later than thirty days [of] after such completion. The [department] commissioner shall conduct periodic reviews of approved training programs and training courses and may revoke approval of a training program or training course at any time [it] the commissioner determines that the training program or training course fails to meet the requirements of this section or established in such regulations.

Sec. 15. Section 20-440 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to administer the provisions of subsection (c) of section 19a-14, as amended by this act, and sections [19a-332 and] 20-435 to [20-441] 20-442a, inclusive, as amended by this act. Such regulations shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) Passing scores for licensure examination of [asbestos consultants] persons licensed pursuant to this chapter; (2) standards for the licensing of asbestos contractors and asbestos consultants in each of the asbestos consultant disciplines and for the certification of asbestos abatement workers and asbestos abatement site supervisors; (3) standards for approval of asbestos training providers and training programs [of asbestos abatement and asbestos consultation services] under section 20-439, as amended by this act, including standards for successful completion of such programs; (4) standards and procedures for suspension and revocation of [certification] licensure of asbestos consultants, asbestos abatement workers and asbestos abatement supervisors; and (5) standards and procedures for suspension and [withdrawal] revocation of approval of training programs.

(b) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to provide for the training of asbestos

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

abatement site supervisors, asbestos abatement workers and asbestos consultants, and for the specification of closely related environmental science degrees. Regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection may include retraining requirements for employees of asbestos contractors. The regulations [required] adopted under [subsection (a) of this section] this subsection shall be revised, as necessary, to ensure that such regulations meet or exceed the requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's model accreditation plan in accordance with federal regulations, as [from time to time] amended from time to time. The commissioner may implement policies and procedures necessary to administer the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulations, provided 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. 16. Subsection (a) of section 20-442a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) The department may deny an application of [an individual] a person or entity or take any action set forth in section 19a-17 and subsection (f) of section 19a-88 against a person or entity licensed, [or] certified or approved pursuant to chapter 400a for [reasons including, but not limited to,] the following reasons: (1) Conviction of a felony, provided any action taken is based upon (A) the nature of the conviction and its relationship to the license or certificate holder's ability to safely or competently perform the work under such license, (B) information pertaining to the degree of rehabilitation of the license or certificate holder, and (C) the time elapsed since the conviction or release; (2) fraud or deceit in the practice of such person's or entity's profession; (3)

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

negligent, incompetent or wrongful conduct in professional activities; (4) misrepresentation or concealment of a material fact in the obtaining, reinstatement or renewal of a license or certificate; or (5) violation of any provision of chapter 400a, or any regulation adopted thereunder, or chapter 368l. The commissioner may petition the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to enforce such order or any action taken pursuant to section 19a-17. Notice of any contemplated action under section 19a-17, the cause of action and the date of a hearing on the action shall be given and an opportunity for hearing afforded in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

Sec. 17. Section 19a-320 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Any resident of this state, or any corporation formed under the law of this state, may erect, maintain and conduct a crematory in this state and provide the necessary appliances and facilities for the disposal by incineration of the bodies of the dead, in accordance with the provisions of this section. The location of such crematory shall be within the confines of an established cemetery containing not less than twenty acres, which cemetery shall have been in existence and operation for at least five years immediately preceding the time of the erection of such crematory, or shall be within the confines of a plot of land approved for the location of a crematory by the selectmen of any town, the mayor and council or board of aldermen of any city and the warden and burgesses of any borough; provided, in any town, city or borough having a zoning commission, such commission shall have the authority to grant such approval. On and after July 1, 2017, no new crematory shall be located within five hundred feet of any residential structure or land for residential purposes not owned by the owner of the crematory. The location requirements in this subsection shall not apply to a crematory performing only alkaline hydrolysis at a funeral home pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

(b) Application for such approval shall be made in writing to the local authority specified in subsection (a) of this section and a hearing shall be held within the town, city or borough in which such location is situated within sixty-five days from the date of receipt of such application. Notice of such hearing shall be given to such applicant by mail, postage paid, to the address given on the application, and to the Commissioner of Public Health, and by publication twice in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the town, city or borough at intervals of not less than two days, the first being not more than fifteen days or less than ten days, and the second being not less than two days before such hearing. The local authority shall approve or deny such application within sixty-five days after such hearing, provided an extension of time not to exceed a further period of sixty-five days may be had with the consent of the applicant. The grounds for its action shall be stated in the records of the authority. Each applicant shall pay a fee of ten dollars, together with the costs of the publication of such notice and the reasonable expense of such hearing, to the treasurer of such town, city or borough.

(c) (1) No such crematory shall be erected until the plans therefor have been filed with and approved by the Department of Public Health; and no such crematory shall be used until it has been inspected and received a certificate of inspection by said department and a fee of one thousand two hundred fifty dollars is paid to the Department of Public Health for its inspection and approval.

(2) Each holder of an inspection certificate shall, annually, on or before July first, submit in writing to the Department of Public Health an application for renewal of such certificate together with a fee of three hundred fifteen dollars. If the department issues to such applicant such an inspection certificate, the same shall be valid until July first next following, unless revoked or suspended.

(3) Upon receipt of an application for a renewal of such certificate, the

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

Department of Public Health shall make an inspection of each crematory.

(4) A crematory shall be open at all times for inspection by the Department of Public Health. The department may make inspections whenever it deems advisable.

(5) If, upon inspection by the Department of Public Health, it is found that such crematory is in such condition as to be detrimental to public health, the department shall give to the applicant or operator of the crematory notice and opportunity for hearing as provided in regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Public Health, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. The commissioner may, after such hearing, revoke, suspend or refuse to issue or renew any such certificate upon cause found at hearing. Any person aggrieved by the finding of or action taken by the Department of Public Health may appeal therefrom in accordance with the provisions of section 4-183.

(6) Any of the inspections provided for in this section may be made by a person designated by the Department of Public Health or by a representative of the Commissioner of Public Health.

(d) A crematory that performs alkaline hydrolysis shall be located on the grounds of a funeral home licensed under chapter 385.

(e) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section, including, but not limited to, establishing technical standards for the use of alkaline hydrolysis and other chemical processes for cremation and the disposal of any products or by-products used in such processes.

Sec. 18. Section 8-2n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The zoning regulations adopted under section 8-2 or any special act

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

shall not authorize the location of a crematory within five hundred feet of any residential structure or land zoned for residential purposes not owned by the owner of the crematory. As used in this section, "crematory" means a building or structure containing one or more cremation chambers or retorts for the cremation of dead human bodies or large animals but does not include a funeral home that performs cremation only by alkaline hydrolysis pursuant to the provisions of subsection (d) of section 19a-320, as amended by this act, and "large animals" means all cattle, horses, sheep, goat, swine or similar species commonly kept as livestock.

Sec. 19. Section 20-442 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

Employees of the Connecticut Labor Department performing their duties in accordance with chapter 571 and federal employees of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration performing their duties in accordance with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act are exempt from the requirements of sections 19a-332d, 19a-332e and 20-435 to [20-441] 20-440, inclusive, as amended by this act.

Sec. 20. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 19a-37 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(1) "Laboratory or firm" means an environmental laboratory [registered] certified by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-29a, as amended by this act;

Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Agent of the local director of health" means a person who holds an approval from the commissioner, pursuant to the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, to investigate, inspect and approve plans relating to subsurface sewage disposal systems;

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

(2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

(3) "Department" means the Department of Public Health;

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

(5) "Subsurface sewage enforcement officer" means a person who has obtained certification from the commissioner to (A) review and approve plans, (B) conduct regulatory inspections, (C) investigate complaints relating to subsurface sewage disposal systems within the jurisdiction of a local director of health, and (D) perform any other related duties as prescribed by the commissioner;

(6) "Phase I subsurface sewage enforcement officer" means a person certified by the commissioner to act as a subsurface sewage enforcement officer for a subsurface sewage disposal system serving a building with a design flow of up to two thousand gallons per day, except for such subsurface sewage disposal systems designed by a professional engineer licensed pursuant to chapter 391 of the general statutes;

(7) "Phase II subsurface sewage enforcement officer" means a person certified by the commissioner to act as a subsurface sewage enforcement officer for a subsurface sewage disposal system serving a building with a design flow up to ten thousand gallons per day; and

(8) "Phase III subsurface sewage enforcement officer" means a person certified by the commissioner to act as a subsurface sewage enforcement officer for an alternative on-site sewage treatment system serving a building with a design flow of ten thousand gallons per day or less.

(b) (1) On and after October 1, 2026, no person, including a licensed environmental health specialist, as defined in section 20-358 of the

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

general statutes, shall perform the duties of a subsurface sewage enforcement officer unless such person is (A) certified by the commissioner pursuant to the provisions of this section, and (B) appointed by a local director of health to perform the duties of a subsurface sewage enforcement officer as an employee or contractor of the municipal health department or health district. The local director of health shall maintain records of such appointments and provide the department a copy of, or access to, such records upon the commissioner's request.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, an agent of the local director of health approved before October 1, 2026, may perform the duties of a subsurface sewage enforcement officer for a local director of health without obtaining certification pursuant to the provisions of this section, provided such agent applies for an initial certification as a subsurface sewage enforcement officer pursuant to the provisions of this section not later than October 1, 2027.

(c) (1) An agent of the local director of health, who is approved to investigate, inspect and approve all plans for subsurface sewage disposal systems, except those prepared by a professional engineer licensed pursuant to chapter 391 of the general statutes, shall seek initial certification as a Phase I subsurface sewage enforcement officer. An agent of the local director of health, who is approved to investigate, inspect and approve plans for subsurface sewage disposal systems prepared by a professional engineer, licensed pursuant to chapter 391 of the general statutes, shall seek initial certification as a Phase II subsurface sewage enforcement officer. After receiving initial certification, such certification shall be renewed in accordance with the provisions of subsection (e) of this section. On and after the date on which the commissioner begins issuing certifications pursuant to the provisions of this section, the commissioner shall not grant any approval of an agent of the local director of health pursuant to the regulations of

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

Connecticut state agencies.

(2) Employees or contractors of the department may conduct regulatory inspections and investigate complaints concerning subsurface sewage disposal systems on behalf of the department without obtaining certification as a subsurface sewage enforcement officer pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(3) An applicant for certification as a subsurface sewage enforcement officer may perform the duties of a subsurface sewage enforcement officer as part of a practical component of a training course, as described in subsection (i) of this section, developed by the department that is taught by department staff or an approved training provider holding a certification for the certification level sought.

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

(e) There shall be no fee to apply for an initial subsurface sewage enforcement officer certification or to renew such certification. A certification shall be renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

(f) The commissioner may require subsurface sewage enforcement officers to attend conferences to provide information and updates

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

regarding on-site sewage treatment systems, which may include, but need not be limited to, a review of the department's technical standards for the siting, design and installation requirements of a subsurface sewage disposal system. The commissioner may conduct such conferences in person, online or by prerecorded online presentations. The commissioner shall not conduct more than two such conferences in any one calendar year.

(g) A subsurface sewage enforcement officer shall only hold a certification as a Phase I, Phase II or Phase III subsurface sewage enforcement officer and shall not hold more than one such certification at one time. A Phase I subsurface sewage enforcement officer shall only perform activities associated with a Phase I subsurface sewage enforcement officer certification. A Phase II subsurface sewage enforcement officer may perform activities associated with a Phase I and Phase II subsurface sewage enforcement officer certification. A Phase III subsurface sewage enforcement officer may perform activities associated with Phase I and Phase II subsurface sewage enforcement officer certification and activities associated with alternative on-site sewage treatment systems. No person shall apply for certification as a Phase II subsurface sewage enforcement officer without having previously obtained certification as a Phase I subsurface sewage enforcement officer or served as an agent of a local director of health prior to October 1, 2026. No person shall apply for certification as a Phase III subsurface sewage enforcement officer without having previously obtained certification as a Phase II subsurface sewage enforcement officer.

(h) The commissioner shall develop the following initial certification applications: (1) Phase I or Phase II subsurface sewage enforcement officer for agents of local directors of health approved prior to October 1, 2026, which shall include an attestation of such approval prior to October 1, 2026, (2) Phase I subsurface sewage enforcement officer, (3)

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

Phase II subsurface sewage enforcement officer, and (4) Phase III subsurface sewage enforcement officer. The commissioner shall also develop a renewal certification application and an application for training providers seeking the commissioner's approval to provide subsurface sewage enforcement officer training courses pursuant to the provisions of subsection (i) of this section.

(i) The commissioner shall develop training courses and corresponding examinations for Phase I, Phase II and Phase III subsurface sewage enforcement officers. The training courses may include a practical component, plan reviews and homework. The commissioner may approve training providers to teach the courses. To be approved, a training provider shall demonstrate, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, that the training course and its materials are consistent with the department's technical standards for the siting, design and installation of subsurface sewage disposal systems. Any approval granted pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall expire three years after the date of such approval. The commissioner may administer or contract with a testing center to administer training courses or certification examinations.

(j) The commissioner may adopt regulations concerning the certification of subsurface sewage enforcement officers, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, that shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) The scope of duties performed by each certification of subsurface sewage enforcement officer; (2) requirements and procedures for the issuance of an initial certification; (3) requirements and procedures to renew certification, in accordance with section 19a-88 of the general statutes, as amended by this act; (4) standards and procedures for certification examinations administered by the commissioner or a testing center; (5) training standards required for initial and renewal certification; and (6) standards and procedures for the commissioner's approval of training providers and courses of

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

study offered by training providers. The commissioner may implement policies and procedures necessary to implement the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulations, provided the commissioner publishes notice of intent to adopt regulations on the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after the date of implementation of such policies and procedures. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this subsection shall be valid until final regulations are adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes.

(k) (1) The commissioner may take any disciplinary action against a subsurface sewage enforcement officer permitted under section 19a-17 of the general statutes, except for the assessment of a civil penalty, for any of the following reasons: (A) Fraud or material deception in obtaining initial certification or renewal certification or the reinstatement of a certificate; (B) fraudulent practices including, but not limited to, acceptance of bribes in the performance of the subsurface sewage enforcement officer's professional activities; (C) incompetent, negligent or illegal performance of the subsurface sewage enforcement officer's professional duties; (D) conviction of the subsurface sewage enforcement officer for a felony; or (E) failure of the subsurface sewage enforcement officer to complete the mandatory training or attend mandatory conferences.

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

Sec. 22. Subsection (c) of section 19a-14 of the 2026 supplement to the

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

- (1) Speech and language pathologist and audiologist;
- (2) Hearing instrument specialist;
- (3) Nursing home administrator;
- (4) Environmental health specialist;
- (5) Subsurface sewage system installer or cleaner;
- (6) Marital and family therapist and marriage and family therapist associate;
- (7) Nurse-midwife;
- (8) Licensed clinical social worker;
- (9) Respiratory care practitioner;
- (10) Asbestos contractor, asbestos consultant and asbestos training provider;
- (11) Massage therapist;
- (12) Registered nurse's aide;
- (13) Radiographer;
- (14) Dental hygienist;
- (15) Dietitian-Nutritionist;

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

(16) Asbestos abatement worker;

(17) Asbestos abatement site supervisor;

(18) Licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor;

(19) Professional counselor and professional counselor associate;

(20) Acupuncturist;

(21) Occupational therapist and occupational therapist assistant;

(22) Lead abatement contractor, lead consultant contractor, lead consultant, lead abatement supervisor, lead abatement worker, lead training provider, lead inspector, lead inspector risk assessor and lead planner-project designer;

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

(24) Paramedic;

(25) Athletic trainer;

(26) Perfusionist;

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

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

(29) Homeopathic physician;

(30) Certified water treatment plant operator, certified distribution system operator, certified small water system operator, certified backflow prevention device tester and certified cross connection survey inspector, including certified limited operators, certified conditional

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

operators and certified operators in training;

(31) Tattoo technician;

(32) Genetic counselor;

(33) Behavior analyst;

(34) Art therapist;

(35) Esthetician;

(36) Eyelash technician; [and]

(37) Nail technician; and

(38) Subsurface sewage enforcement officer.

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

Sec. 23. Subsection (c) of section 19a-14 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 196 of public act 25-168, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

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

(1) Speech and language pathologist and audiologist;

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

- (2) Hearing instrument specialist;
- (3) Nursing home administrator;
- (4) Environmental health specialist;
- (5) Subsurface sewage system installer or cleaner;
- (6) Marital and family therapist and marriage and family therapist associate;
- (7) Nurse-midwife;
- (8) Licensed clinical social worker;
- (9) Respiratory care practitioner;
- (10) Asbestos contractor, asbestos consultant and asbestos training provider;
- (11) Massage therapist;
- (12) Registered nurse's aide;
- (13) Radiographer;
- (14) Dental hygienist;
- (15) Dietitian-Nutritionist;
- (16) Asbestos abatement worker;
- (17) Asbestos abatement site supervisor;
- (18) Licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor;
- (19) Professional counselor and professional counselor associate;
- (20) Acupuncturist;

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

(21) Occupational therapist and occupational therapist assistant;

(22) Lead abatement contractor, lead consultant contractor, lead consultant, lead abatement supervisor, lead abatement worker, lead training provider, lead inspector, lead inspector risk assessor and lead planner-project designer;

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

(24) Paramedic;

(25) Athletic trainer;

(26) Perfusionist;

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

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

(29) Homeopathic physician;

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

(31) Tattoo technician;

(32) Genetic counselor;

(33) Behavior analyst;

(34) Art therapist;

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

(35) Esthetician;

(36) Eyelash technician;

(37) Nail technician; [and]

(38) Subsurface sewage enforcement officer; and

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

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

Sec. 24. Subsection (e) of section 19a-88 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

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

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

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

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

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

(7) Each person holding a license issued pursuant to section 20-278h

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

shall, once every two years, during the anniversary month of initial licensure, apply for renewal of such license to the department.

(8) Each person holding a certificate pursuant to section 21 of this act shall, on or before three years after the date of issuance of an initial or renewal certification, apply for renewal of such certificate to the department.

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

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

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

(3) Each person holding a certificate issued under section 20-195ttt shall apply for renewal of such certificate once every three years, during

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

the month of such person's birth, giving such person's name in full, such person's residence and business address and such other information as the department requests.

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

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

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

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

(8) Each person holding a certificate pursuant to section 21 of this act shall, on or before three years after the date of issuance of an initial or renewal certification, apply for renewal of such certificate to the department.

Sec. 26. Subsection (n) of section 25-32 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

2026):

(n) (1) On and after the effective date of regulations adopted under this subsection, no person shall operate any water treatment plant, water distribution system or small water system that treats or supplies water used or intended for use by the public, test any backflow prevention device, perform a cross connection survey without a certificate issued by the commissioner under this subsection or operate any water treatment plant or water distribution system as an operator-in-training unless such person is issued a certificate by the commissioner under this subsection. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to provide: (A) Standards for the operation of such water treatment plants, water distribution systems and small water systems; (B) standards and procedures for the issuance of certificates to operators and operators-in-training of such water treatment plants and water distribution systems and operators of small water systems, including, but not limited to, standards and procedures for the department's approval of third parties to administer certification examinations to such operators and operators-in-training; (C) procedures for the renewal of such certificates to operators every three years; (D) standards for training required for the issuance or renewal of a certificate; (E) standards and procedures for the department's approval of course providers and courses of study as they relate to certified operators and certified operators-in-training of water treatment plants and water distribution systems and certified operators of small water systems and certified persons who test backflow prevention devices or perform cross connection surveys for initial and renewal applications; and (F) standards and procedures for the issuance and renewal of certificates to persons who test backflow prevention devices or perform cross connection surveys. Such regulations shall be consistent with applicable federal law and guidelines for operator certification programs promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. For purposes of this subsection, "small water

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

system" means a public water system, as defined in section 25-33d, that serves less than one thousand persons and has no treatment or has only treatment that does not require any chemical treatment, process adjustment, backwashing or media regeneration by an operator.

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

(3) The commissioner may issue an initial certificate to perform a function set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection upon receipt of a completed application, in a form prescribed by the commissioner, together with an application fee as follows: (A) For a water treatment plant, water distribution system or small water system operator certificate, or operator-in-training certificate for a water treatment plant or water distribution system, two hundred twenty-four dollars, except there shall be no such application fee required for a student enrolled in an accredited high school small water system operator certification course; (B) for a backflow prevention device tester certificate, one hundred fifty-four dollars; and (C) for a cross-connection survey inspector certificate, one hundred fifty-four dollars. A certificate issued

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

pursuant to this subdivision shall expire three years from the date of issuance unless renewed by the certificate holder prior to such expiration date, except a certificate issued for an operator-in-training pursuant to this section shall expire six years from the date of issuance and shall not be renewable. The commissioner may renew a certificate, other than a certificate for an operator-in-training, for an additional three years upon receipt of a completed renewal application, in a form prescribed by the commissioner, together with a renewal application fee as follows: (i) For a water treatment plant, water distribution system or small water system operator certificate, ninety-eight dollars; (ii) for a backflow prevention device tester certificate, sixty-nine dollars; and (iii) for a cross-connection survey inspector certificate, sixty-nine dollars.

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

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

under direct supervision of a certified water operator of the type of system for which the apprentice is seeking certification but shall not make any process and system integrity decisions concerning the quality and quantity of water that affects public health. Failure of a certified water operator to provide the supervision required under this section shall be grounds for disciplinary action against the certified water operator pursuant to the provisions of this section.

Sec. 27. Section 20-441 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2026*)

Governor's Action:
Approved June 4, 2026