



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH March 3, 2008

Ellen Blaschinski, Regulatory Services Branch, 509-8171

House Bill 5730 - An Act Concerning Environmental Health

The Department of Public Health supports House Bill 5730

Section 1 - These standards are intended to strengthen the protection of new proposed public drinking water sources through the assurance of appropriate sanitary protections for long-term sustainability. The DPH intends to modify the Public Health Code to detail these standards (the statement of purpose is must be corrected to reflect the Department's intent to "clarify and expand existing law with respect to standards that must be met by public water systems when new public drinking water sources are proposed).

Sec. 2 was developed in response to a lawsuit against a district health department. The district health department relocated a lead poisoned child as per CGS 19a-111. The family sued the health district for relocation costs. As per statute, it is the responsibility of the municipality where the child was poisoned to pay for relocation costs. Since the health district is not a municipality but a governmental agency governed by more than one municipality, the statute currently as written is not specific to district health departments. The district health department lost the case. This language will protect local health departments and district health departments from burdening these costs in the future.

Section 3 will expand the enforcement actions that the department may take as a result of improper conduct by various environmental health practitioners. Restitution may be directed to injured property owners.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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