



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE March 11, 2011

Ellen Blaschinski, Branch Chief, Regulatory Services Branch 509-8171

Senate Bill 1143 - An Act Concerning Environmental Health

The Department of Public Health supports Senate Bill 1143. The Department would like to thank the Public Health Committee for raising this bill.

The proposed legislation would authorize the Department of Public Health (DPH) to charge fees associated with the review of proprietary leaching systems, the revision of notifications for asbestos abatement and demolition activities, and the review of requests to perform asbestos abatement while school is in session. The fees authorized by this bill will cover the administrative cost for conducting proprietary leaching system reviews and asbestos abatement monitoring functions.

The DPH publishes the *Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems* (Technical Standards) in accordance with Public Health Code Section 19-13-B103d (b), and the current revision (January 1, 2011) includes 108 approved proprietary leaching systems. Pursuant to the Technical Standards, a proprietary leaching system cannot be used in a septic system installation unless the proprietary leaching system is approved by DPH. Section 1 of this bill revises CGS Section 19a-36(b) by adding a \$500 fee for reviews of proprietary leaching systems. It also revises existing wording in this statute as it relates to DPH review of small and large engineered design plans for subsurface sewage disposal systems (a.k.a. septic systems) so that it is consistent with defined terms and terminology in the Public Health Code.

Sanitary engineers working in DPH's Environmental Engineering Program review proprietary leaching system proposals, and these reviews are very in-depth and time consuming. DPH staff review product specifications and technical drawings in order to establish an effective leaching area credit rating per the Technical Standards. DPH staff also review support documentation and installation instructions in order to identify design and installation concerns.

As related to Section 2 of the bill, DPH regulations require the agency be notified concerning asbestos abatement activities involving the removal of more than 10 linear feet of asbestos-containing material (ACM) or more than 25 square feet of ACM, and demolition activities. The DPH received approximately 3,300 notifications for asbestos abatement and 265 demolition notifications during calendar year 2010. It is estimated that approximately one third of the asbestos abatement and demolition notifications are subsequently revised due to change in the dates work is performed, or changes in the scope of work. These notifications serve in part as the basis for prioritizing compliance inspections conducted by the DPH Asbestos Program.

Asbestos abatement is prohibited while school is in session unless the local education agency (LEA) obtains the prior written approval of the DPH. The LEA is required to submit a written request to the DPH

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to obtain such an approval. The DPH received approximately 30 of these requests during calendar year 2010. The proposed fee of \$200 would cover the administrative costs associated with the review of these request, which may include the need to evaluate design specifications and to conduct a site visit at the school.

The DPH estimates the additional revenue generated each year to be \$40,000.

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

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