



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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House Bill-5334 - An Act Concerning the Sale or Abandonment of Water Supply Sources and Associated Land.

The Department of Public Health supports House Bill 5334. The Department would like to thank the Public Health Committee for raising the Department's bill.

This proposal is intended to streamline the permitting of the sale or abandonment of a groundwater or surface water public water supply source (i.e. a well or reservoir) by combining two formerly separate permitting procedures. For both proposed sales and abandonments, the department conducts a focused review to ensure that the source being considered for sale or abandonment is not essential for the supply needs of the water company proposing the action. Additionally the Department makes a determination of whether other water companies could potentially utilize the source of supply to meet drinking water needs of the residents of Connecticut now or in the future.

This proposal will also create a linkage between these wells and reservoirs and the critical water company land surrounding them that serves to recharge these sources. When water supply sources are sold or transferred, land and land protections associated with these sources will be required to be sold or transferred with the sources. This linkage will serve to protect the quality of our state's public water supplies by ensuring that existing land protections are retained after the sale or transfer.

Exemptions are provided, including for municipalities and water companies. Language is also included that exempts wells that are replaced with a new well located within 250' of the well to be abandoned.

Further, this proposal provides for an appeal of denied permit applications. Presently this does not exist under the current statute.

The Department respectfully requests amending the language to delete in line 242 "25-32f" and replace it with "25-32". There is a typographical error in section (e)(1). The reference to CGS Section 25-32f ("...otherwise disposed of in accordance with section 25-32f") should state "section 25-32" (i.e. the "f" should be removed).

The Department respectfully requests amending the language on line 22 to delete "a" and replace it with "any". The proposal to use the term "a" instead of "any" was intended only to define a source in the singular. There was no intent to substantively redefine a "future source of supply". To that end, DPH has no opposition to reverting to the use of the term "any" in the definition. The Department also requests amending the language in line 23 to delete "an area" and replace it with "areas"

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

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