



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 591

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6994

House of Representatives, April 13, 2015

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through REP. REED of the 102nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICE PIPES OF WATER COMPANIES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) (a) Upon application of a
2 property owner to a water company, as defined in section 16-1 of the
3 general statutes, to install a service pipe, as defined in section 16-262u
4 of the general statutes, extending to such property owner's dwelling by
5 crossing intervening properties, the water company may approve such
6 property owner's application if the property owner demonstrates (1)
7 that such service pipe shall extend to not more than such property
8 owner's dwelling; (2) that proper easements are in place; (3) sufficient
9 evidence to show that alternative ownership of a suitable strip of land
10 to establish frontage on a road is not feasible; (4) that his or her intent
11 is not to perpetuate an existing nonconforming condition through an
12 extension or replacement of an existing nonconforming service pipe;
13 (5) that the construction and installation of such service pipe shall
14 comply with the water company's standards and specifications; and (6)
15 that there is adequate water pressure available to serve the dwelling.

16 (b) If a property owner's application is denied or such property
17 owner cannot meet the conditions established in subsection (a) of this
18 section, such property owner, upon written request to the Public
19 Utilities Regulatory Authority, and with proper easements in place,
20 may be granted an exception to allow a service pipe to cross
21 intervening properties. The property owner may request such
22 exception only when such property owner is under exceptional
23 hardship. The authority shall approve or disapprove such request on a
24 case by case basis in accordance with section 16-11-64 of the
25 regulations of Connecticut state agencies.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	New section

ET *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which allows private water companies to approve a property owner's application to install a service pipe that extends to the owner's dwelling by crossing intervening properties, has no fiscal impact on the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA).

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6994*****AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICE PIPES OF WATER COMPANIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows investor-owned water companies, under certain conditions, to approve a property owner's application to install a service pipe that extends to the owner's dwelling by crossing intervening properties. Current regulations generally prohibit extensions that cross intervening properties unless the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) approves them (Conn. Agencies Reg. § 16-11-64).

The bill requires a property owner seeking an extension to meet requirements similar to those required for PURA's approval under current regulations. Under the bill, a property owner must demonstrate to the water company that:

1. the service pipe will only extend to the property owner's dwelling,
2. proper easements are in place,
3. alternative ownership of a suitable strip of land for road frontage is not feasible,
4. he or she does not intend to continue an existing nonconforming condition by extending or replacing an existing nonconforming service pipe,
5. the service pipe construction and installation will comply with the water company's standards and specifications, and
6. there is adequate water pressure available to serve the dwelling.

If the company denies the property owner's application or the owner cannot meet the above requirements, the bill allows PURA to approve an extension, on a case-by-case basis as it does under current regulations. In addition to requirements 1-4 above, these regulations require a property owner to (1) submit a written request for the extension to PURA; (2) be under exceptional hardship; and (3) show that he or she does not intend to avoid the time and expense of a proper main and service pipe extension, or other reasonable engineering solution that conforms to good engineering practice standards.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/24/2015)