



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 610

January Session, 2015

Senate Bill No. 569

Senate, April 13, 2015

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through SEN. DOYLE of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SMALL COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) (a) The Public Utilities
2 Regulatory Authority shall, in consultation with the Department of
3 Public Health, establish a process to identify and monitor small
4 community water systems having financial difficulty. As used in this
5 section, "small community water systems" are such water systems that
6 are not required to submit a water supply plan under section 25-32d of
7 the general statutes.

8 (b) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate a docket
9 to establish a cost-based, rate-setting policy for small community water
10 systems. The authority shall report, in accordance with the provisions
11 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, the findings of such docket to
12 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
13 cognizance of matters relating to energy, on or before February 1, 2016.

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*

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 requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), in consultation with the Department of Public Health (DPH), to identify and monitor small community water systems having financial difficulty and to initiate a docket to establish a cost-based, rate-setting policy for small community water systems. The bill has no fiscal impact as PURA has the staff and expertise to perform this function.

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

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 569*****AN ACT CONCERNING SMALL COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), in consultation with the Department of Public Health (DPH), to establish a process to identify and monitor small community water systems having financial difficulty. Under the bill, "small community water systems" are those that do not have to submit a water supply plan (i.e., water companies that serve fewer than 1,000 people or 250 buildings).

The bill also requires PURA to initiate a proceeding to establish a cost-based, rate setting policy for small community water systems. PURA must report its findings to the Energy and Technology Committee by February 1, 2016.

The law, unchanged by the bill, allows PURA, in consultation with DPH and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, to review the economic viability of water companies serving at least 25 people, except municipal water companies. If it finds that the company is not economically viable, PURA can take various actions to assure the availability and potability of the company's water, including ordering a suitable public or private entity to acquire the company (CGS § 16-262n).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

BACKGROUND***Related Bill***

HB 6954, favorably reported by the Public Health Committee, implements DPH's recommendations regarding water company

takeover proceedings, among other things.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/24/2015)