



**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee**

**March 18, 2015**

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA  
860-509-7101**

**House Bill 6954 - An Act Concerning Water Company Takeover Proceedings and Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Expansion of Existing, and the Construction of New, Public Water Systems**

The Department of Public Health ("the DPH") supports House Bill 6954 and would like to thank the Public Health Committee for raising the Department's bill.

The intent of this proposal is to achieve the following:

- 1) Eliminate the requirement for DPH participation in the voluntary takeover of a water company by a PURA-regulated water company;
- 2) Eliminate the requirement for PURA participation in the voluntary takeover of a water company by an entity other than a PURA-regulated water company;
- 3) Streamline the review process for voluntary & involuntary take over cases by removing the requirement that a hearing be held. Under this proposal, a hearing may be held, but is not required to be held;
- 4) Authorize DPH, in consultation with PURA, to conduct a sustainability review before proceeding to an involuntary takeover process; and
- 5) Eliminate the requirement for PURA participation in the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity process, except as regards the provision of input around the financial capacity of the proposed owner of a system.

In short, the proposal should eliminate redundancies and duplication of efforts and resources by the two involved state agencies, while it streamlines the agencies' conduct of these proceedings. Further, this proposal will provide for direct and comprehensive review of small troubled community public water systems by the DPH and enable methods to strengthen these systems' capacity and viability. The ultimate goal of this proposal is to streamline review processes, and promote the conduct of sustainability reviews for small systems.

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

*Phone: (860) 509-7269, Fax: (860) 509-7100, Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191  
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE, P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134  
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