



**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Testimony Presented Before the Environment Committee**

**March 3, 2021**

**Acting Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
860-509-7101**

**Senate Bill 927, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Sewage Spill Right-to-Know Statute**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) supports Senate Bill 927, which would establish an additional methodology for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to notify the public of unanticipated sewage spills and promote better communication between affected municipalities in the event of a large spill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

When a sewage spill has the potential to impact a public drinking water watershed or a swimming beach, DPH and DEEP work together to notify the public as to the health implications of any such spill. The Department strongly supports the language in the bill that allows for immediate and direct communication between the operator of the sewage treatment plant or collection system, municipalities, and local health departments located in the areas impacted by large spills. The bill will allow the public to be better informed and will decrease the impact of large spill events on the public's health.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. We encourage Committee members to contact DPH with any questions.

*Phone: (860) 509-7269,  
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE, P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134  
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