

CWWA Legislative Update

Several key committees wrapped up their business this week. The following is an update of CWWA priority issues. Other committees will finalize their work in the upcoming days. There are several issues that we are seeking your input on:

SB-427 - An Act Concerning Public Trust Components Of The State Water Plan

This bill was intended to address concerns with the way the State Water Plan references the public trust doctrine, which may encroach upon the established water rights of various users. As drafted, however, the bill would have exempted private drinking water wells from the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act. The bill died in the Environment Committee, which took no action.

[Link to Bill](#)

HB-5345 - An Act Concerning Lead Service Line Replacement

The Energy & Technology Committee approved a bill which authorizes PURA to create a docket to study issues related to lead service line replacement plans, the identification of lead service lines, including customer lead service lines, and the potential cost of replacing lead service lines, including the cost to customers.

Please review the language and provide me with your input. There was some discussion at CWWA's Board meeting regarding the definitions included in the bill.

[Link to Bill](#)

HB-5356 - An Act Concerning Emergency Action Plans For Dams

CWWA's bill to reduce costs associated with updating Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) was unanimously approved by the Environment Committee. The bill heads to the House for further action.

[Link to Bill](#)

HB-5154 - An Act Concerning Water Usage and Conservation During Drought Conditions

The Public Health Committee approved a bill which requires the Water Planning Council to report to the General Assembly regarding its review of state and local processes and authorities for the issuance of drought advisory, watch, warning or emergency and any attendant water use restrictions, including recommendations for standardizing drought triggers.

CWWA is seeking revisions to the language to ensure that it reflects that there can be significant variability in drought conditions throughout the state and how such conditions impact water systems and regions

[Link to Bill](#)

HB-5151 - An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Connecticut's Safe Drinking Water

The Public Health Committee approved amended language which requires small community water systems to prepare asset management plans. The bill also allows the Department of Public Health to update its schedule of penalties for violating drinking water laws and regulations without adhering to the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. It does, however, provide an opportunity for hearing and comment.

[Link to Bill](#)

HB-5343 - An Act Concerning Fines Ordered by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, Civil Penalties for Failure to Comply Related to Excavation, Demolition, or Discharge of Explosives and Certain Timeframes for Calculating Lost and Unaccounted for Gas

A bill intended to ensure that parties that violate the Call Before You Dig (CBYD) laws are responsible for paying any fines to PURA was approved by the Energy Committee. The bill also authorizes PURA to award up to \$40,000 in restitution to customers. The language creates some confusion regarding whether water utilities will be unfairly penalized under the bill, as drafted.

Please review the bill and provide me with input on this concern.

[Link to Bill](#)