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CWWA Legislative Update

June 1, 2021

There are only 8 days left to go in the legislative session. CWWA has been actively engaged with lawmakers on a number of issues affecting the water industry. Here is a recap of action taken on key bills:

Department of Public Health (DPH) Bill- The House adopted [HB-6666](#) which includes the state Department of Public Health's recommendations to address various public health issues, including drinking water. The bill is awaiting final action by the Senate. As amended, the bill includes the following:

- **Alternative Sources during Water Supply Emergency** - Requires water companies and small community water systems to update their emergency contingency plans and emergency response plans, respectively, to include information on providing their consumers an alternative drinking water source as a temporary measure when there is a water supply emergency. Under the bill, a "water supply emergency" is an event lasting longer than 12 hours that causes a company's water supply to become non-compliant with DPH regulations on drinking water quality or quantity.
- **WebEOC Reporting** - The bill requires community water systems that serve at least 25 residents to promptly report their operational status to WebEOC after the governor declares a civil preparedness or public health emergency. They must do so within eight hours after WebEOC reporting is made available regarding the declared emergency, and any time thereafter that the community water system's status significantly changes.

- **Tier 1 Notices** - Requires water companies to provide Tier 1 Notices to customers in the languages predominantly spoken in their service area and update their emergency response plans that they submit to DPH under existing law to include information on the provision of these multilingual communications. *Note: This is consistent with EPA's Public Notification Rule which requires water companies that have a large proportion of non-English speaking consumers to include information in the appropriate language(s) regarding the importance of the notice or a telephone number or address where consumers may contact to obtain a translated copy of the notice or assistance in the appropriate language.*
- **Replacement Wells** - Provides DPH with more flexibility to approve a replacement well if the well is: 1) needed by the water company to maintain and provide safe and adequate water to customers; 2) located in an aquifer of adequate water quality, as determined by historical water quality data from the supply source it is replacing; and 3) in a more protected location than the supply source it is replacing, as determined by DPH.
- **Notification of Projects in Watersheds and Aquifer Protection Areas** - Broadens the circumstances under which applicants must notify water companies and DPH about certain projects in watersheds and aquifer protection areas, and requires the applicants to notify DPH by email.
- **Environmental Laboratories** - Requires environmental laboratories to notify small community water systems of test results that violate EPA national primary drinking water standards within 24 hours and requires such systems to notify DPH within 24 hours of receiving the test result.
- **Notification to Tenants and Lessees** - Requires commercial and residential property owners to notify tenants and lessees whenever a property's water supply is tested and exceeds any maximum contaminant level in state regulation or DPH's state drinking water action level list.

Sewer Liens - Assignment and Foreclosure - The state Senate approved **SB-968** which provides that liens on owner-occupied property for municipal or regional sewer or water pollution control authority (WPCA) assessments or charges are not assignable or subject to certain enforcement actions until the principal exceeds \$4,000 or the delinquency is at least four years old. The bill is awaiting action in the House.

PFAS - Firefighting Foam & Food Packaging - SB-837 generally prohibits (1) using class B firefighting foam with intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) and (2) offering for sale or promotional purposes food packaging with PFAS intentionally introduced during manufacturing or distribution. The bill was approved by the Senate on consent and is expected to win passage in the House.

CWWA will provide a legislative wrap-up at the upcoming June 22 workshop.

Questions? Please contact Betsy Gara at 860-841-7350 or via e-mail at gara@gmlobbying.com.

Register Today!

CWWA's New & Emerging Issues Workshop

June 22, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Don't miss this informative workshop!

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from the experts about:

- **Revised Lead & Copper Rule - Preparing your Inventory of Lead Service Lines and Other Compliance Issues**
- **CT's Approach to Addressing PFAS**
- **PFAS - The View from Up North: Lessons Learned from Other States**
- **New State Laws affecting Water Utilities**
- **State and Federal Infrastructure Funding**

Registration Fee: Members - \$25; Non-Members - \$50

Sponsorships: Members - \$425; Non-Members - \$575

REGISTER TODAY!

Thank you, Sponsors!

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