



CWVA Legislative Status Report

May 20, 2021

ADVANCED METER INSTALLATION

HB-6100 - AN ACT CONCERNING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT – Unfortunately, language to clarify that water utilities may use contractors to install/replace meters under an Advanced Meter Installation program rather than requiring water utilities to hire a licensed plumber and electrician to perform the work is expected to be deleted by an amendment, due to opposition from the union plumbers. **Status: Awaiting action by the House. (CWVA supports amendment to exempt meter installations from definition of plumbing work)**

SAFE DRINKING WATER

HB-6615 – AN ACT CONCERNING SAFE DRINKING WATER - Includes provisions 1) requiring water utilities to provide alternative water supplies in the event of a main break, loss of system, pressure or other event anticipated to last more than 8 hours and DPH determines may affect water quality or quantity; 2) requiring multilingual Tier 1 notifications; 3) requiring WebEOC reporting during a public health emergency; and 4) requiring environmental labs to notify DPH regarding certain test results. **Status: Awaiting action by the House. (CWVA is negotiating language revisions with DPH, which are expected be added to HB-6666)**

WATER UTILITY FEES/CHARGES

HB-6443 - AN ACT CONCERNING REVENUE ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
The Safe Drinking Water Fee provisions have been stripped out of the bill. CWVA opposes provisions which would have made changes to the Safe Drinking Water fee by 1) increasing the fee to \$2.69 per service connection; 2) eliminating the sunset provision which ensured that the fee would not become a permanent tax on water company customers; 3) eliminates provisions which ensure that the fee will be eliminated if DPH loses primacy; and 4) eliminates DPH's annual reporting requirement to demonstrate how the funds have been used and how they have attempted to streamline costs. It is unclear whether these provisions will be reinstated as part of the negotiations to the budget and tax package. **Status: Awaiting Action by the House. (CWVA opposes fee provisions)**

SB-969 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ASSESSMENT OF CERTAIN CHARGES AND REQUIRING APPROVAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF WATER LINES AND HYDRANTS BY WATER COMPANIES
Prohibits water companies from assessing certain fire service charges on municipalities and requires water companies to obtain approval prior to the installation of water lines and hydrants. **Status: Died in the Planning & Development Committee. (CWVA opposed)**



SB-941 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSIGNMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY, TAX, WATER AND SEWER LIENS – As amended, the bill makes any lien assignment executed on or after July 1, 2022, unenforceable unless memorialized in a written contract between the assignee and municipality or authority. The contract must include the disclosure and other provisions the bill specifies. **Status: *Approved by the Senate, sent to the House. (CWWA opposed original bill)***

SB-968 – AN ACT CONCERNING FORECLOSURE, ASSIGNMENT AND OTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS FOR UNPAID SEWER ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER FEES AND CHARGES - Prohibits foreclosure, assignment and other enforcement actions for unpaid sewer assessment and other fees and charges in the case of owner-occupied real property for which the principal of such unpaid assessments, fees and charges is less than ten thousand dollars. **Status: *Awaiting action by the Senate. (CWWA opposes, as drafted. The bill is expected to be amended to create a working group to address these issues)***

HB-6643 - AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL TAXATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND THE MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX WAIVER - Authorizes municipalities to provide taxpayers, including municipal water customers, with a 90-day payment deferral and a reduced interest rate of 3% on delinquent payments. **Status: *Awaiting action by the House. (CWWA opposes)***

SB-1064 - AN ACT CONCERNING A WAIVER OF INTEREST ON PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AND THE INTEREST RATE FOR CERTAIN TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS – Includes provisions which reduce the interest rate on delinquent water, sewer and other bills from 18% to 12%. **Status: *Awaiting action by the Senate. (CWWA opposes)***

CONSERVATION

SB-863 - AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS - to establish and update state appliance and equipment energy and water efficiency standards. **Status: *Died in the Energy & Technology Committee. (CWWA supported the intent)***

ENERGY

SB-952 - AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN SOLAR PROJECTS - Increases the Virtual Net Metering (VNM) cap from \$20 million to \$30 million/year for municipal projects, provided a minimum of \$5 million shall be set aside for municipalities considered “alliance districts”. The bill also 1) creates solar energy storage goals, (2) permits ownership of solar power generation facilities by electric distribution companies, and (3) directs DEEP and PURA to investigate solar energy development programs. **Status: *VNM provisions stripped from bill. Approved by the Energy Committee, sent to the Senate.***

HB-6523 - AN ACT CONCERNING VIRTUAL NET METERING CREDITS FOR MANUFACTURERS IN DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITIES – Increases the cap on Virtual Net Metering from \$20 million to \$30 million and provides that the additional \$10 million must be made available to



manufacturers in distressed municipalities. **Status: Awaiting action by the House. (CWWA monitoring)**

ENVIRONMENT

HB-6498 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE SITING OF SOLAR FACILITIES ON CERTAIN FARMLANDS - To provide for increased review of proposals to site solar facilities on certain farmlands and land that is core forest. **Status: Died in the Environment Committee. (CWWA requested language to address watershed lands)**

SB-924 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE STAFFING AND RESOURCES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - Requires the preparation of a report by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection that provides an accounting of agency staffing positions paid for from the revenues of the Passport to the Parks account and that assesses the effect of impending agency staff retirements on the viability and efficacy of current and planned agency programs and responsibilities. **Status: Awaiting action by the Senate. (CWWA monitoring)**

LABOR

HB-6536 - AN ACT REQUIRING ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMPLOYEES WORKING FROM HOME – Requires an employer to reimburse an employee for all necessary expenditures incurred by the employee within his or her scope of employment and directly related to services performed for the employer. Under the bill, an employer is any person engaged in business who has one or more employees, including the state and its political subdivisions. Under the bill, “necessary expenditures” generally include expenditures the employer requires of the employee to perform his or her work duties that primarily benefit the employer (e.g., equipment, technology, and office supplies). But it excludes certain expenditures, such as those an employee agrees to incur before being assigned to work from home. **Status: Died in the Appropriations Committee. (CWWA opposes)**

PFAS RELATED PROPOSALS

HB- 6439 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR – Includes funding to implement Certain Recommendations of PFAS Task Force – DPH: \$408,000 in FY 22 and \$420,000 in FY 23 for one Toxicologist, one Laboratory Consultant, one Chemist, and one Environmental Analyst to assist with updating standards and action levels for drinking water, review laboratories to become approved for PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) testing, implement PFAS testing of drinking water at the State's public health laboratory, support testing of public water systems, and educate stakeholders to protect the public health from the impacts of PFAS in drinking water. Also recommended is \$100,000 for laboratory testing supplies. Also includes funding of \$110,548 in FY 22 and \$114,800 in FY 23 to support one Engineer Intern to enhance the State’s response to drinking water issues in schools undergoing



construction projects, and one Environmental Analyst to assist the agency in its continued administration of safe drinking water standards for public drinking water. **Status: Awaiting action by the House. (CWVA supports)**

SB-887 - AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES – Includes Grants-in-aid to municipalities for the purpose of providing potable water and for assessment and remedial action to address pollution from perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl containing substances, not exceeding \$1,150,000. **Status: Awaiting action by the Senate.**

SB-837 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN CLASS B FIREFIGHTING FOAM - Prohibits the use of firefighting foam containing PFAS for training purposes and establish a take-back program for such products and prohibits the sale of consumer packaging that contains PFAS. **Status: Approved by the Senate, sent to the House. (CWVA Supports)**

SB- 926 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF PFAS IN CERTAIN CONSUMER PACKAGING – Prohibits the sale of consumer packaging that contains PFAS. **Status: Incorporated into SB-837. (CWVA monitoring)**

PURA

SB-855 (File 78) - AN ACT CONCERNING THE DECOUPLING OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - Decouples the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. **Status: Awaiting action by the Senate; File #78, Cal. #79. (CWVA monitoring)**

WATER QUALITY

HB-6384 Public Act 21-12 - AN ACT CONCERNING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES' EFFECTS ON LAKES AND RELATED FUNDING – Requires the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) to develop a report to determine whether funding under the Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp program is sufficient, how funds have been used, and whether additional funding mechanisms are needed. **Status: Awaiting the Governor's signature. (CWVA supports)**

SB-1031 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF SODIUM CHLORIDE TO MITIGATE ICE AND SNOW ACCUMULATIONS - Requires DEEP and the Department of Transportation (DOT) to work with UConn's Tech Transfer (T2) Center to conduct training for roadside salt applicators. The bill also 1) establishes a salt applicator certification program within DEEP, which the commissioner must administer and enforce within available resources; 2) requires each local health district, by January 1, 2022, to establish an electronic reporting system for owners of homes and wells damaged by sodium chloride run-off; and 3) requires any person who installs residential water



treatment systems, including automatic water softeners or tanks, to test a customer's drinking water for sodium and chloride before recommending installation of an automatic water softener or tank. A registered environmental laboratory must perform the testing. **Status: Died in the Appropriations Committee.**

SB-834 - AN ACT CONCERNING WATER QUALITY NOTIFICATION - Requires the owner of a property to notify each tenant and lessee of such property of the results of certain water quality tests. **Status: Expected to be incorporated into HB-6666. (CWNA monitoring)**

SB-1065 - AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF MUNICIPALITIES AND HOMEOWNERS WITH WELL WATER CONTAMINATED WITH URANIUM – Requires DPH and the Office of Policy and Management to conduct a study of municipalities in the state where the commissioner reasonably believes that the groundwater is contaminated with uranium. Such study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of (1) the levels of uranium in such groundwater, (2) the number of private residential wells affected by the presence of uranium, and (3) the available resources of the Department of Public Health, local health departments and municipalities to provide assistance to homeowners and other individuals who use such wells. **Status: Died in the Appropriations Committee. (CWNA monitoring)**

INFRASTRUCTURE

HB-6441 – AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION – The Governor's proposal includes provisions expanding the ability of the Green Bank to invest in water, waste and recycling, climate adaptation and resilience, agriculture, land conservation, parks and recreation, and environmental markets like with carbon offsets, and it would be allowed to utilize its bonding authority, as well as seek federal funding, to raise capital to invest in and stimulate more private investment in such projects in Connecticut. Provides that the Green Bank may not use Clean Water Funds or funds collected from a water company. **Status: Awaiting action by the House. (CWNA supports certain provisions)**

SB-150 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY - to: (1) Establish a new quasi-public agency to facilitate and finance the development of public infrastructure projects with the highest quality standards at the lowest cost, (2) prioritize the public's interest in public infrastructure projects and build the foundation of a thriving economy, (3) create and retain construction and maintenance jobs in this state, and (4) encourage the use of innovation, efficiencies, best practices and technology to deliver the most functional, reliable and advanced public infrastructure projects to the residents of this state. **Status: Awaiting action by the Senate; File #106, Cal. #115. (CWNA monitoring)**

SB-887 - AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES – Includes funding for the Clean Water Fund and \$5 million in FY22 and FY23 for the state's Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Program. **Status: Awaiting action by the Senate.**



HB-6666 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES –

Implements DPH's recommendations regarding various revisions to the public health statutes, including language which authorizes DPH to approve a replacement well in other communities provided such well is 1) necessary to meet current system demands; (2) located in an aquifer of adequate water quality determined by historical water quality data from the well it replaces; and (3) in a more protected location when compared to the well it is to replace. **Status: Awaiting action by the House. Expected to be amended to include language from HB-6615 and SB-834. (CWVA supports).**

OPERATIONS

HB-6501 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE STREAMLINING OF CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION –

Includes the following provisions: 1) Imposes an annual permit fee of \$200 on any person or business and a \$100 permit fee of any municipality authorized to engage in a regulated activity covered by a general permit. Also requires entities to register and obtain approval from DEEP before the activity is authorized; and 2) Makes changes regarding CEU requirements and certification of Wastewater Treatment Facility Operators. **Status: Approved by the House, sent to the Senate. (CWVA monitoring)**

SB-858 - AN ACT CONCERNING CALL BEFORE YOU DIG PROGRAM VIOLATIONS AND CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS TO GAS PIPELINES PROCESSES –

Requires that penalties for violations of the "Call Before You Dig" law's marking requirements be directly paid by the entity being penalized by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), without recovering the penalty from a third party (e.g., a contractor working for the penalized entity). It also establishes a process by which the PURA commissioners can stop the work on a Call Before You Dig project if there is an immediate life-threatening hazard resulting from a willful violation of the law. **Status: Awaiting action by the Senate. (exempts municipalities from the scope of the bill). (CWVA monitoring)**

HB-5598 - AN ACT CONCERNING A PROPERTY OWNER'S LIABILITY FOR THE EXPENSES OF REMOVING A FALLEN TREE OR LIMB -

Imposes liability on certain owners of real property for the expenses of removing a tree or limb that falls on an adjoining owner's private real property. The bill exempts water companies and other entities. **Status: Awaiting action by the House. (CWVA monitoring)**

SB-700 (File No. 76) - AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF DAMS AND SIMILAR STRUCTURES BY OWNERS OF REAL PROPERTY -

Requires the owner of real property on which a dam or similar structure is located to record such dam or structure on the land records of the municipality in which such real property is located, notify a potential buyer of such real property of the existence of such dam or structure and disclose the existence of such dam or structure on a residential disclosure report. **Status: Awaiting action by the Senate; File #76, Cal. #77. (CWVA monitoring)**



PRIVACY – DATA

SB-893 - AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PRIVACY - Establishes a framework for controlling and processing personal data by: 1) establishing responsibilities and privacy protection standards for data controllers (those that determine the purpose and means of processing personal data) and processors (those that process data for a controller); 2) granting consumers the right to access, correct, delete, and obtain a copy of personal data and to opt out of the processing of personal data for certain purposes (e.g., targeted advertising); 3) requiring data protection assessments; 4) authorizing the attorney general to bring an action to enforce the bill’s requirements; and 5) subjecting violators to a \$7,500 civil fine per violation. **Status:** *Awaiting action by the Senate. (CWVA opposes)*

HB-5310 – AN ACT CONCERNING DATA PRIVACY BREACHES - Extends the data breach notification requirements to include anyone who owns, licenses, or maintains computerized data that includes personal information (data managers), rather than just those who do so in the ordinary course of doing business in the state. The data breach notification law generally requires data managers to disclose a security breach without unreasonable delay to state residents whose personal information has been, or is reasonably believed to have been, accessed by an unauthorized person. The bill generally shortens the maximum notification period, from 90 to 60 days after the security breach was discovered, for data managers to inform consumers and the attorney general. It also narrows the circumstances under which those who own or license computerized data with breached information must offer residents appropriate identity theft prevention or mitigation services. **Status:** *Awaiting action by the House. (CWVA monitoring)*

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SB-413 - AN ACT EXEMPTING VETERANS FROM THE FEES FOR APPLICATION OR RENEWAL OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES - Exempts veterans from the fees for application or renewal of occupational licenses. **Status:** *Died in the Finance Committee.*

MISCELLANEOUS

HB-6617 - AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND REVISIONS TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS STATUTES Authorizes state grant commitments for school building projects; to require that all plans for a school building project submitted on and after July 1, 2022, provide for the installation of water bottle filling stations; and to require boards of education to be responsible for establishing or reestablishing school building committees for school building projects. **Status:** *Awaiting action by the House. (CWVA monitoring)*