

# CWWA Legislative Update

*April 18, 2022*

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## Current CWWA Legislative Status Report

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATOR ASAP TO VOICE OPPOSITION TO SB-325**

**SB-325 - An Act Prohibiting The Assessment Of Certain Charges And Requiring Approval For The Installation Of Water Lines And Hydrants By Water Companies.**

### CT State Senator Contact List 2022

**SB-325** will undermine a water utility's ability to fund critical fire protection systems by imposing impractical and cumbersome requirements on utility assessments and fire hydrant installations.

Water utilities rely on fire protection charges to support hydrants and the additional infrastructure capacity needed for fire suppression, including large diameter water mains, storage tanks, larger pumps, and robust water sources. Fire service charges are calculated based on factors associated

with the cost of the infrastructure to support public fire protection, including water distribution mains and fire hydrants.

**SB-325 prohibits water companies from assessing municipalities for:**

1. a fire protection charges for (A) a water line that is not connected to a hydrant on the street where such water line is located or that does not have a hydrant connected to it within the municipality, or (B) a water line or hydrant that is not owned or maintained by such company; or
2. a linear foot charge or hydrant charge for a water line located on private property.

**CWWA opposes SB-325 which creates the following concerns:**

- Changing the number of service lines and hydrants used in calculating fire protection charges will simply force an increase in the per-unit cost or a shift in costs to other customers. According to the Office of Fiscal Analysis, the bill will not result in any savings for municipalities. It will, however, impose a very impractical and labor-intensive process on water utilities which may increase customer costs.
- Water lines not directly connected to a fire hydrant or located on private property can still provide water to fire hydrants elsewhere in a municipality and are appropriately and equitably included in the allocation of fire service charges.
- Fails to recognize that water mains can be installed in easements over private property to prevent dead ends, and improve available fire flow.
- This creates uncertainty as to whether water companies will be prohibited from assessing fire service charges for buildings with sprinklers and private hydrants, such as town halls and schools.
- For water utilities that serve several municipalities, decreasing the fire service assessment for one municipality would require an increase in the assessment for other municipalities.

**SB-325** also prohibits a water company from installing a hydrant without first obtaining approval from the municipality's chief administrative officer in addition to the local fire marshal.

CWWA opposes these provisions which:

- Places an additional burden on water utilities to seek approvals from town administrators not familiar with hydrant usage and requirements.
- Undermines the authority of fire marshals in designating and approving the location of fire hydrants consistent with applicable fire safety codes and standards.
- Delays efforts to replace hydrants that have been hit by cars or otherwise damaged, creating fire safety risks.

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## **Sales Tax Exemption Moves Forward**

### **HB-5404 - An Act Concerning a Sales And Use Taxes Exemption For Water Companies**

- exempts purchases of products and services by private water companies from the sales tax was approved on consent in the legislature's Finance Committee. This bill helps ensure greater parity in customer rates by addressing concerns regarding sales taxes incurred by private water companies that regional and municipal water companies are exempt from. The bill now heads to the House for further action.

**CWWA Workshop**

**Compliance Assistance for CT's Water Utilities**

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***Tuesday, June 14 at the MDC Training Center,  
Hartford, CT from 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.***

***3.5 Training Credit Hours for Certified  
Operators (pending approval).***

Sponsorships are available!

Topics to be covered include:

- Lead & Copper Rule Revisions - Compliance Strategies
- PFAS Treatment Technologies
- Managing Disinfection Byproducts
- Water Infrastructure Funding

**[Register Here](#)**