



## **CWWA Legislative Update**

The Connecticut State Legislature convened on Wednesday, February 9 for a 12-week short session (the shortest possible session that can be held by law) that is scheduled to adjourn on Wednesday, May 4.

In addition to Governor Lamont's State of the State address where he unveiled his budget revisions for FY23 and his legislative priorities, the agencies have submitted their legislative packages for consideration. The state Department of Public Health's (DPH) legislative proposals (linked below) include the following issues of interest to water companies:

### **DPH 2022 Legislative Proposals**

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#### **Legionella**

This proposal requires water companies that serve water to more than 1000 persons and provide water to health care facilities to perform monitoring for total coliform, residual disinfectant, pH, turbidity and temperature at sites in the distribution system that are representative of the water entering such health care facility. Currently, there are 63 facilities that are served by onsite wells and are regulated by DPH as public water systems. The remaining 339 facilities are served by large water systems.

The proposal also requires water companies that add chemical disinfectants such as chlorine or chloramine, or purchase chlorinated water, to maintain the residual disinfectant concentration at a minimum of 0.10 parts per million (ppm) throughout the water distribution system. There are currently 87 out of 91 large public water systems that have chlorinated water.

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#### **Testing of Private & Semi-Public Wells**

Governor Lamont's proposed budget includes provisions regarding testing requirements for private wells and semi-public wells. Under the proposal, newly constructed private wells and

semipublic wells and all private wells and semi-public wells that are part of a real estate transaction must be tested for total coliform, nitrate, nitrite, sodium chloride, iron, manganese, hardness, turbidity, pH, sulfate, apparent color, odor, arsenic, and uranium.

The proposed budget includes for DPH to implement these changes, including analyzing the testing data to determine water quality trends and whether any results exceed a water quality action level or maximum contaminant level that warrant follow-up by DEEP or local health departments.

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## Private Contaminated Wells

Several municipalities are raising concerns regarding the contamination of private residential wells due to sodium chloride, PFAS, uranium, etc. Various legislative committees are expected to consider legislation to address this issue.

So far, the legislature's Energy & Technology Committee has raised a bill that is expected to require the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to consider public health issues in dockets considering water well contamination. In addition, the Environment Committee is expected to raise a bill to address concerns with road salt and deicing chemicals.

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## Promoting Careers in the Water Sector

[HB-5038](#) implements the Governor's budget recommendations that build on provisions adopted last year requiring technical education and career schools to meet with members of the business community and state colleges/universities that offer courses in public utility management. The bill authorizes the schools to convene regional or statewide meetings to address the workforce needs of the state's utilities.

**CWWA's Legislative Committee** will be meeting on **February 25, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** via Zoom to discuss these proposals.