



Planning and Development Committee

March 5, 2021

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members representing 168 towns and cities.

S.B. 961 “An Act Concerning Certain Sewage Disposal Systems and Alternative Sewage Treatment Systems.”

S.B. 961 would, among other things, increase the capacity by which the Department of Public Health (DPH) would have jurisdiction and the authority to regulate alternative sewage treatment systems from 7,500 gallons per day to 10,000 gallons per day and remove the restriction of doing this work within available appropriations.

Many municipalities are facing consent orders in regards to treating wastewater pollution in certain areas of their town. Some of these communities do not have the ability or it is not feasible to tie into a centralized sewage treatment system and traditional on-site sewage treatment systems are not adequate to address the wastewater pollution occurring in their town.

The innovation happening with on-site alternative treatment systems has highlighted their capability to act as a solution to a town's wastewater problem. Currently, DEEP is slow and has been inflexible in approving these systems below 7,500 gallons per day and towns are incurring ongoing costs trying to comply with DEEP's consent orders.

The technology is available and DPH has proven to be more effective and willing to work with municipalities to address the situation and offer common-sense solutions. This is why it is so important to provide them with the necessary resources to accommodate their oversight with the proposed increase in capacity to 10,000 gallons per day.

We would add that in your deliberations to please consider setting up a more formal process for approval of alternative sewage treatment systems, which will facilitate their installation. This is the mechanism for approval elsewhere. Alternative wastewater treatment systems are utilized throughout the Eastern seaboard in states that have similar soil types and topography as Connecticut and they have been used effectively to treat wastewater. There is no reason we cannot replicate this in Connecticut.

Finally, we want to add that improving the process for approval of alternative sewage treatment systems will help with the feasibility and development of affordable housing within these cities and towns.

For these reasons, CCM asks the Committee to support S.B. 961.

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Advocacy Manager of CCM at dhamzy@ccm-ct.org or (203) 843-0705.