



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

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[House Bill 6653](#), An Act Concerning Healthy Homes

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the following comments regarding House Bill 6653, which would establish a pilot program to annually provide not less than five hundred residential dwellings with (1) energy efficiency retrofits, and (2) residential improvements that reduce health and safety hazards found in such residential dwellings. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

As currently written, the bill would allow the Commissioner of Housing to contract with non-profit organizations to employ in-home environmental assessors to perform energy efficiency retrofits and residential improvements that reduce health and safety hazards. The bill states that assessors who perform health and safety hazard assessments and/or perform residential improvements must (A) be certified to remove, remediate, or abate health and safety hazards by a nationally recognized certifying organization, or (B) have earned a certificate in the removal, remediation, or abatement of health and safety hazards or a related field from an accredited institution of higher education.

DPH licenses and certifies several different professions that would be considered to be qualified to perform health and safety hazard assessments and improvements. For example, if lead abatement is necessary, the individual performing the work would need to be appropriately licensed by the Department, and the entity completing the work would need to be certified by DPH. These requirements are outlined in Sections 19a-111-1 through 19a-111-11 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. Additionally, there are federal requirements for lead remediation established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule. Work in homes constructed before 1978 would need to comply with these EPA rules. Another example of an existing credentialing requirement pertains to removal of asbestos containing materials (ACM). Any abatement involving ACM requires such work to be performed by a DPH-certified company with DPH-licensed professionals.

The Department would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee to clarify training, certification, and licensing standards.