



Connecticut Department of Public Health

**Testimony Presented Before the Committee on Planning and
Development**

March 15, 2021

**Acting Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
860-509-7101**

**Senate Bill 1024, An Act Concerning Zoning Authority, Certain Design Guidelines,
Qualifications of Certain Land Use Officials and Certain Sewage Disposal Systems**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) supports the concepts outlined in Sections 11, 12, and 13 of Senate Bill 1024. This bill proposes to increase the maximum capacity of alternative on-site sewage treatment systems over which DPH would have jurisdiction from 5,000 to 7,500 gallons per day, transfers jurisdiction of subsurface community sewerage systems with a capacity up to 7,500 gallons per day from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to DPH, and would necessitate the promulgation of regulations by DPH to govern these systems.

DPH currently regulates conventional septic systems having capacities up to 7,500 gallons per day, which are typically found in household and small commercial settings.

The Department cannot comply with the requirements of this proposed legislation within existing resources. Additionally, once needed staff is hired, DPH would need to be provided a transition period to assume regulatory responsibilities now held by DEEP, as well as additional time for regulation adoption. During the transition period, DEEP and DPH must further evaluate agency resource needs and associated costs related to DPH assuming the new and expanded regulatory responsibilities delineated in the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. DPH encourages committee members to reach out with any questions.

*Phone: (860) 509-7269
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE, P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134
An Equal Opportunity Employer*