

Energy and Technology Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5201
AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS IN THE ACQUISITION
Title: OF WATER COMPANIES.
Vote Date: 3/22/2022
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/3/2022
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

[Rep. Jaime S. Foster, 57th Dist.](#)

REASONS FOR BILL: This bill would direct the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission to consider public health concerns, in addition to other existing factors for consideration, when analyzing the acquisition of water companies. Address sources of pollution that can have an effect on resources such as public drinking water.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Commissioner Katie S. Dykes, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. Supports the Department of Public Health in this effort by addressing sources of pollution that impact our drinking water resources and our lands that serve the role of filtering our water supplies

Marissa P. Gillett, Chairman, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. Supports Section 1 of H.B. 5201, which would add to the existing enumerated considerations for ordering the acquisition of a water company or water system. Specifically, the bill would add “public health concerns, including, but not limited to, any closed or active consent decrees or deficiencies identified by the Department of Public Health relating to the water company.”

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Representative Tammy Nuccio, Fifty-Third Assembly District. Supports the bill because Having PURA's support in engaging larger water companies to assist with the acquisition of these smaller entities is a step in the right direction. I support the extension of safe public water to areas with public health concerns.

Claire E. Coleman, Interim Consumer Counsel, Office of Consumer Counsel State of Connecticut-Supports the bill because it would require the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority in consultation with the Department of Public Health to consider public health concerns, such as compliance with public health standards as monitored and enforced by DPH, in its consideration of whether the costs of improvements to and the acquisition of a water company are just and reasonable

Connecticut Water Company-Supports the bill because the addition of explicit language to CGS §16-262o to require PURA to consider public health concerns when ordering the acquisition of a water company will strengthen the review process for those entities, which meet the definition of a water company under CGS §16-262n, including deficient well systems serving twenty five or more persons. It does not, however, appear to address individual private wells that are not part of such a statutorily defined water system

Elizabeth Gara, Executive Director Connecticut Water Works Association. Supports the bill because it adds public health concerns to the issues that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority in consultation with DPH must consider in ordering the acquisition of a water company and determining whether the costs of improvements to and the acquisition of a water company are necessary and reasonable

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

David Godbout-Oppose

Reported by: Jason Snukis

Date: March 23rd, 2022