



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 543**

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5518

*House of Representatives, April 9, 2026*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY of the 133rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER STATUTES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 21a-150 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 For the purposes of this section and sections 21a-150a to 21a-150j,  
4 inclusive, as amended by this act:

5 (1) "Approved laboratory" means a laboratory [registered] certified  
6 by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section 19a-29a, as  
7 amended by this act, or certified by the United States Environmental  
8 Protection Agency to analyze drinking water;

9 (2) "Approved source" means the source of any bottled water,  
10 including, but not limited to, a spring, artesian well, drilled well or  
11 public water supply, that, for a source located in the state, has been  
12 inspected and approved by the Department of Public Health, or for a  
13 source located out of state, has been inspected and approved by the

14 government entities having jurisdiction to regulate the use of such out-  
15 of-state source;

16 (3) "Artesian well water" means bottled natural water obtained from  
17 a well tapping an aquifer in which the level of the water is above the  
18 bottom of the confining bed of the aquifer and in which the hydraulic  
19 pressure of the water in the aquifer is greater than the atmospheric  
20 pressure;

21 (4) "Bottled water", or any term of similar import, means water  
22 obtained from an approved source that is packaged for sale or  
23 distribution. "Bottled water" shall not include any soda or seltzer that is  
24 packaged for sale or distribution;

25 (5) "Bottler" means any person, firm or corporation engaging in the  
26 business of bottling or distributing water for sale or distribution;

27 (6) "Distilled water" means purified water that has been produced by  
28 a process of distillation;

29 (7) "Drinking water" means bottled water that has been distilled,  
30 fluoridated or purified or that has been disinfected by a process of  
31 ozonation and filtration or any substantially similar disinfection  
32 process;

33 (8) "Fluoridated water" means bottled water that contains fluoride  
34 ions in an amount not less than eight-tenths of one milligram per liter  
35 and not more than one and two-tenths milligrams per liter or such  
36 alternative concentration limit as the Commissioner of Consumer  
37 Protection, with the advice and assistance of the Commissioner of Public  
38 Health, may determine by regulations adopted in accordance with the  
39 provisions of chapter 54 and that otherwise complies with the  
40 provisions of Subsections (b), (c) and (d) of 21 CFR 165.110;

41 (9) "Mineral water" means natural water that contains not less than  
42 five hundred parts per million total dissolved solids;

43 (10) "Natural water" means bottled spring water, artesian well water

44 or well water, that has been obtained from any approved source other  
45 than a public water supply and that has not been modified by blending  
46 with water from any other source or by the addition or deletion of any  
47 mineral other than any addition or deletion that may occur as a result of  
48 ozonation, filtration or any other substantially similar disinfection  
49 process;

50 (11) "Perfluoroalkyl substance" means perfluorooctanoic acid,  
51 perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, perfluoronanoic acid, perfluorohexane  
52 sulfonic acid, hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid or any other  
53 perfluoroalkyl substance the commissioner determines requires an  
54 action level for the protection of public health, safety or welfare;

55 [(11)] (12) "Principal display panel" means the portion of a label on  
56 any container or package that is most likely to be displayed, presented  
57 or examined under normal and customary conditions of display and  
58 purchase of bottled water;

59 [(12)] (13) "Public water supply" means any individual, partnership,  
60 association, corporation, municipality or other entity, or the lessee  
61 thereof, that owns, maintains, operates, manages, controls or employs  
62 any pond, lake, reservoir, well, stream or distributing plant or system  
63 for the purpose of supplying water by service connections or pipe  
64 distribution systems to two or more hotels, motels, boardinghouses,  
65 apartments, stores, office buildings, institutions, mechanical or  
66 manufacturing establishments or other places of business or industry to  
67 which water is supplied by a water company or to twenty-five or more  
68 persons on a regular basis;

69 [(13)] (14) "Purified water" means bottled water that is produced by  
70 distillation, deionization, reverse osmosis or any other suitable process  
71 and that meets standards established for purified water in the twentieth  
72 edition of the United States Pharmacopoeia;

73 [(14)] (15) "Spring water" means natural water obtained from an  
74 underground formation from which water flows naturally to the surface  
75 of the earth; [and]

76 (16) "Unregulated contaminant" means any chemical, physical,  
77 biological or radiological substance in a bottled water source, except a  
78 perfluoroalkyl substance, for which there is no state or federal statutory  
79 or regulatory drinking water health standard; and

80 [(15)] (17) "Well water" means natural water obtained from a hole  
81 bored, drilled or otherwise constructed in the ground, that taps the  
82 water of an aquifer.

83 Sec. 2. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 21a-150a of the  
84 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
85 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

86 (2) A bottler selling or distributing bottled water obtained from a  
87 source located in the state shall obtain approval for the use of such  
88 source from the Department of Public Health. The Department of Public  
89 Health shall inspect each bottled water source located in the state and,  
90 if such source meets quality and safety requirements, issue an approval  
91 for such source. An approval issued by the Department of Public Health  
92 pursuant to this subsection shall contain any terms or conditions  
93 deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Public Health to address the  
94 quality and safety of the source and shall expire three years from the  
95 date of issue.

96 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 21a-150b of the general statutes is  
97 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
98 *1, 2026*):

99 (c) (1) The Commissioner of Public Health shall, not less than  
100 annually, issue a schedule containing (A) a list of perfluoroalkyl  
101 substances and unregulated contaminants, and (B) the acceptable levels  
102 of or standards governing such perfluoroalkyl substances and  
103 unregulated contaminants in drinking water. The commissioner shall  
104 update the schedule, as deemed necessary by the commissioner.

105 [(c)] (2) On or before January 1, [2022] 2027, and annually thereafter,  
106 qualified employees of a bottler shall [(1)] (A) collect samples of water

107 from each approved source that is located in the state, that has been  
108 inspected and approved by the Department of Public Health pursuant  
109 to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 21a-150a, as amended by  
110 this act, and is used by such bottler, prior to any treatment, to test for  
111 compliance with the (i) levels or standards governing perfluoroalkyl  
112 substances and [other] unregulated contaminants established in the  
113 most recent schedule issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of this  
114 subsection, and (ii) physical, chemical, radiological and microbiological  
115 standards established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 25-32,  
116 and [(2)] (B) have such samples analyzed by an environmental  
117 laboratory [registered] certified by the Department of Public Health  
118 pursuant to section 19a-29a, as amended by this act, that has the  
119 Environmental Protection Agency approved certification to conduct  
120 such analysis. [As used in this subsection, "unregulated contaminant"  
121 means a contaminant for which the Commissioner of Public Health,  
122 pursuant to section 22a-471, has set a level at which such contaminant  
123 creates or can reasonably be expected to create an unacceptable risk of  
124 injury to the health or safety of persons drinking such source of water.]

125 Sec. 4. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 21a-150c of the  
126 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
127 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

128 (2) Collect, not less than once annually, a representative sample from  
129 a batch or segment of a continuous production of each type of bottled  
130 water sold by such bottler in this state, and have such sample analyzed  
131 by an approved laboratory to determine whether such sample complies  
132 with the chemical, inorganic, organic, physical and radiological  
133 standards set forth in regulations adopted by the Department of Public  
134 Health pursuant to section [19a-36] 25-32 concerning public drinking  
135 water. Each bottler that uses water obtained from an out-of-state source  
136 may meet the requirements of this subdivision by demonstrating  
137 compliance with substantially similar standards established by the  
138 government entity having jurisdiction to regulate the use of such source.

139 Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 21a-150d of the general statutes is

140 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
141 *1, 2026*):

142 (d) A bottler shall report, in a form and manner prescribed by the  
143 Commissioner of Public Health, the results of the analysis conducted  
144 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 21a-150b, as amended by this act,  
145 to the Department of Public Health and the Department of Consumer  
146 Protection not later than nine calendar days after receipt of the results  
147 from the environmental laboratory. If such results [exceed the level set  
148 by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to section 22a-471 for  
149 such perfluoroalkyl substances and other unregulated contaminants] do  
150 not meet the requirements for (1) levels or standards governing  
151 perfluoroalkyl substances and unregulated contaminants established  
152 pursuant to the provisions of section 21a-150b, as amended by this act,  
153 or (2) physical, chemical, radiological and microbiological standards  
154 established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 25-32, the  
155 Department of Public Health may require such bottler to discontinue  
156 use of its approved source until such source [no longer creates an  
157 unacceptable risk of injury to the health or safety of persons drinking  
158 the bottled water that comes from such source] meets the requirements  
159 for such levels or standards. The Department of Public Health shall  
160 notify the Department of Consumer Protection of any source for which  
161 the Department of Public Health has discontinued use until such source  
162 no longer creates an unacceptable risk of injury to the health or safety of  
163 the persons drinking the bottled water that comes from such source. [As  
164 used in this subsection, "unregulated contaminant" means a  
165 contaminant for which the Commissioner of Public Health, pursuant to  
166 section 22a-471, has set a level at which such contaminant creates or can  
167 reasonably be expected to create an unacceptable risk of injury to the  
168 health or safety of the persons drinking such source of water.]

169 Sec. 6. Section 19a-37k of the general statutes is repealed and the  
170 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

171 The owner of any residential or commercial property shall notify each  
172 tenant of any leased or rented unit located on such property and the

173 lessee of such property whenever any testing of the water supply for  
174 such property indicates that the water exceeds [a] any maximum  
175 contaminant level [applicable to] for water supply systems [for any  
176 contaminant listed] set forth in the regulations of Connecticut state  
177 agencies [or for any contaminant listed on the state drinking water  
178 action level list established pursuant to section 22a-471] or for  
179 perfluoroalkyl substances and unregulated contaminants established  
180 pursuant to the provisions of section 21a-150b, as amended by this act.  
181 As soon as practicable, but not later than forty-eight hours after  
182 receiving notification of the results of such testing, the owner shall  
183 forward a copy of such notification to each such tenant and lessee. The  
184 local director of health shall take all reasonable steps to verify that such  
185 owner forwarded the notice required pursuant to this section.

186 Sec. 7. Section 19a-29a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
187 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

188 (a) As used in this section:

189 (1) "Environmental laboratory" means any facility or other area,  
190 including, but not limited to, an outdoor area where testing occurs, used  
191 for microbiological, chemical, radiological or other analyte testing of  
192 drinking waters, ground waters, sea waters, rivers, streams and surface  
193 waters, recreational waters, fresh water sources, wastewaters,  
194 swimming pools, construction, renovation and demolition building  
195 materials, soil, solid waste, animal and plant tissues, sewage, sewage  
196 effluent, sewage sludge or any other matrix for the purpose of providing  
197 information on the sanitary quality or the amount of pollution or any  
198 substance prejudicial to health or the environment. "Environmental  
199 laboratory" does not include a publicly-owned treatment works, as  
200 defined in section 22a-521, that performs only physical, residue,  
201 microbiological and biological oxygen demand tests for its own facility  
202 for which results are required by or submitted to the Department of  
203 Energy and Environmental Protection to comply with permits or  
204 authorizations issued pursuant to section 22a-6k, 22a-430 or 22a-430b,  
205 or a pollution abatement facility, as defined in either section 22a-423 or

206 22a-475, that tests for pH, turbidity, conductivity, salinity and oxidation-  
207 reduction potential, and tests for residual chlorine for its own facility for  
208 which results are required by or submitted to the Department of Energy  
209 and Environmental Protection to comply with permits or authorizations  
210 issued pursuant to section 22a-6k, 22a-430 or 22a-430b;

211 (2) "Analyte" means a microbiological, chemical, radiological or other  
212 component of a matrix being measured by an analytical test; [and]

213 (3) "Certification" means an approval issued by the Department of  
214 Public Health to an environmental laboratory to operate and that sets  
215 forth the specific analyte that may be tested and specific testing method  
216 that may be utilized by the environmental laboratory;

217 [(3)] (4) "Matrix" means the substance or medium in which an analyte  
218 [is] may be contained [,] that may include drinking water or wastewater;

219 (5) "Out-of-state environmental laboratory" means an environmental  
220 laboratory that is located and physically operates in another state where  
221 the results of any testing conducted are used to demonstrate compliance  
222 with any statutory or regulatory requirements of this state; and

223 (6) "Service center" means a collection site located in the state  
224 operated solely for the purpose of collecting samples to be tested at a  
225 certified environmental laboratory or an out-of-state environmental  
226 laboratory.

227 (b) The Department of Public Health shall [(1)] adopt regulations, in  
228 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish [reasonable]  
229 standards governing environmental laboratory operations and facilities,  
230 including, but not limited to, (1) service centers, (2) personnel  
231 qualifications, (3) certification, [for] (4) testing [,] for analytes, (5) levels  
232 of acceptable proficiency in testing programs approved by the  
233 department, (6) the collection, acceptance and suitability of samples for  
234 analysis, and (7) such other pertinent laboratory functions, including the  
235 establishment of advisory committees, as may be necessary to ensure  
236 environmental quality, public health and safety. [, and (2) establish one

237 or more schedules of the amounts of civil penalties that may be imposed  
238 under this section. Each registered environmental laboratory shall  
239 comply with all standards for environmental laboratories established by  
240 the department and shall be subject to inspection by said department,  
241 including inspection of all records necessary to carry out the purposes  
242 of this section. The Commissioner of Public Health may revoke or  
243 otherwise limit the license of any environmental laboratory that fails to  
244 comply with the provisions of this section or regulations adopted under  
245 this section.] The Commissioner of Public Health may implement  
246 policies and procedures necessary to implement the provisions of this  
247 section while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures as  
248 regulations, provided the department posts such policies and  
249 procedures on the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after  
250 the date of implementation of such policies and procedures. Policies and  
251 procedures implemented pursuant to this section shall be valid until  
252 final regulations are adopted in accordance with the provisions of  
253 chapter 54.

254 (c) [The Commissioner of Public Health shall determine whether it is  
255 necessary for the protection of the public health or the environment for  
256 an environmental laboratory to be registered and to have certification to  
257 conduct a test for an analyte in a matrix. If the commissioner determines  
258 that it is necessary for the environmental laboratory to be registered,  
259 such environmental laboratory shall obtain from the commissioner a  
260 certification to conduct such tests for analytes.] No person shall operate,  
261 manage, own or control an environmental laboratory that tests for  
262 analytes identified on the list published by the commissioner pursuant  
263 to subsection (d) of this section for the purpose of providing information  
264 on the sanitary quality or the amount of pollution of any substance  
265 prejudicial to health or the environment [for which the commissioner  
266 has determined registration and certification is required without having  
267 first registered and obtained such certification] without a certification.  
268 The commissioner shall not issue a certification to an environmental  
269 laboratory until such environmental laboratory demonstrates  
270 compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

271 (d) The commissioner shall, annually, publish a list setting forth all  
272 analytes and matrices for which a certification for testing is required.  
273 Such list shall include the specific methods acceptable for all testing of  
274 analytes and matrices.

275 (e) Each application for [registration of an environmental laboratory  
276 and for certification for testing any analyte] certification shall be (1)  
277 made on forms provided by said department, [shall be] (2) except for an  
278 environmental lab owned or operated by the state, accompanied by a  
279 fee of one thousand two hundred fifty dollars, and [shall be] (3) executed  
280 by the owner or owners or by a responsible officer authorized to do so  
281 by the agency, [firm or corporation] person or entity owning the  
282 environmental laboratory. Upon receipt of any such application, the  
283 department shall make such inspections and investigations as are  
284 necessary and shall deny [registration] certification when operation of  
285 the environmental laboratory would be in violation of applicable  
286 statutes or regulations or prejudicial to the health of the public.  
287 [Registration] Certification shall not be in force until notice of its  
288 effective date and term has been sent to the applicant.

289 (f) Each [registration or] certification shall be issued for a period of  
290 not less than twenty-four or more than twenty-seven months. [from any  
291 deadline for applications established by the commissioner.] Renewal  
292 applications shall be made (1) biennially within the twenty-fourth  
293 month of the current registration; (2) before any change in ownership is  
294 made; and (3) prior to any major expansion or alteration in, or changing  
295 of, quarters.

296 (g) This section shall not apply to any environmental laboratory that  
297 only provides laboratory services or information for the agency, person  
298 [firm or corporation] or entity which owns or operates such laboratory  
299 and uses laboratory results solely for such agency's, person's or entity's  
300 own information. No agency, person or entity shall use such results to  
301 demonstrate compliance with any statutory or regulatory requirement.

302 (h) If, upon review, investigation or inspection, the [Commissioner of  
303 Public Health determines an] commissioner determines a certified

304 environmental laboratory has violated any provision of this section or  
305 regulations adopted under this section, the commissioner may impose  
306 a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars per violation per day  
307 and issue such other orders as the commissioner determines necessary  
308 to protect the public health. Upon notice of the issuance of an order or  
309 imposition of the civil penalty, the commissioner shall provide the  
310 environmental laboratory with an opportunity for a hearing. The  
311 commissioner (1) may take any of the actions authorized under section  
312 19a-494 against an environmental laboratory that fails to comply with  
313 the provisions of this section or regulations adopted thereunder, and (2)  
314 shall summarily suspend the certification of an environmental  
315 laboratory in advance of a final adjudication or during the appeals  
316 process if the commissioner finds that the environmental laboratory  
317 presents a clear and present danger to the public health and safety if  
318 allowed to continue operating. Governmental immunity shall not be a  
319 defense against the imposition of any civil penalty imposed pursuant to  
320 this section. In determining the amount of the civil penalty to be  
321 imposed on an environmental laboratory, the commissioner shall  
322 consider the degree of the threat to public health or the environment,  
323 the amount necessary to achieve compliance, and the history of  
324 compliance [of] by the environmental laboratory. Any order or civil  
325 penalty issued under this provision may be appealed in accordance with  
326 the provisions of section 4-183.

327 (i) The failure of an environmental laboratory to pay a civil penalty  
328 imposed by the commissioner shall be grounds for revocation of the  
329 environmental laboratory's [registration and certification for testing]  
330 certification.

331 (j) The commissioner may order an [unregistered] environmental  
332 laboratory that is not certified to test an analyte to cease operations. The  
333 commissioner may impose a civil fine not to exceed five thousand  
334 dollars per violation per day to an environmental laboratory for  
335 operating without a certification.

336 (k) The commissioner may request the Attorney General to petition

337 the Superior Court for an order to aid in enforcement of any provision  
338 of this section.

339 (l) An out-of-state environmental laboratory that has not been issued  
340 a certification by the commissioner shall not operate a service center  
341 without obtaining approval from the commissioner. An out-of-state  
342 environmental laboratory seeking to operate a service center shall apply  
343 for such approval in a form and manner prescribed by the  
344 commissioner. The commissioner may approve a service center  
345 operated by an out-of-state environmental laboratory if such  
346 environmental laboratory demonstrates that (1) it maintains an active  
347 certification from the state in which the environmental laboratory is  
348 located to test for an analyte using a specific method on the list  
349 published pursuant to subsection (d) of this section; and (2) the policies  
350 and procedures governing the service center are sufficient to protect the  
351 integrity of the samples to be tested. Such approval shall expire not later  
352 than two years after the date on which the commissioner issues an initial  
353 approval and may be renewed for a period of two years in a form and  
354 manner prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner may inspect  
355 a service center operated by an out-of-state environmental laboratory at  
356 any time. The commissioner may revoke an approval obtained pursuant  
357 to the provisions of this subsection if the commissioner determines that  
358 revocation is necessary to protect the public health. The commissioner  
359 may issue a civil fine up to five thousand dollars if the commissioner  
360 determines that the out-of-state environmental laboratory violated any  
361 provision of this section or regulations adopted thereunder per violation  
362 per day. In assessing the amount of such civil penalty, the commissioner  
363 shall consider the factors described in subsection (h) of this section.  
364 Upon notice of the imposition of the civil penalty, the commissioner  
365 shall provide the out-of-state environmental laboratory with an  
366 opportunity for a hearing. Any revocation or civil penalty issued under  
367 this subsection may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of  
368 section 4-183.

369 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 19a-14d of the general statutes is  
370 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*

371 1, 2026):

372 (a) An occupational or professional license, permit, certification or  
373 registration issued by the Department of Public Health pursuant to  
374 chapter 368v, 370, 372, 373, 375, 375a, 376, 376a, 376b, 376c, 377, 378,  
375 378a, 379, 379a, 380, 381, 381a, 381b, 382a, 382b, 382c, 383, 383a, 383b,  
376 383c, 383d, 383e, 383f, 383g, 383h, 384, 384a, 384b, 384c, 384d, 385, 386,  
377 387, 387a, 388, 388a, 393a, 395, 397a, 398, 399, [400a,] 400c or 474 shall be  
378 issued, in the occupation or profession applied for and at a practice level  
379 determined by the department, to a person, including, but not limited  
380 to, an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States or  
381 such person's spouse, if:

382 (1) The person holds a valid license, permit, certification or  
383 registration in at least one other jurisdiction in the United States in the  
384 occupation or profession applied for;

385 (2) The person has practiced under such license, permit, certification  
386 or registration for not less than four years;

387 (3) The person is in good standing in all jurisdictions in the United  
388 States in which he or she holds a license, permit, certification or  
389 registration and has not had a license, permit, certification or  
390 registration revoked or discipline imposed by any jurisdiction in the  
391 United States, does not have a complaint, allegation or investigation  
392 related to unprofessional conduct pending in any jurisdiction, and has  
393 not voluntarily surrendered a license, permit, certification or  
394 registration while under investigation for unprofessional conduct in any  
395 jurisdiction;

396 (4) The person satisfies any background check or character and fitness  
397 check required of other applicants for the license, permit, certification or  
398 registration; and

399 (5) The person pays all fees required of other applicants for the  
400 license, permit, certification or registration.

401 Sec. 9. Section 19a-332 of the general statutes is repealed and the

402 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

403 As used in subsection (c) of section 19a-14 and sections 19a-332 to  
404 19a-332e, inclusive, as amended by this act, 20-435 to 20-442, inclusive,  
405 as amended by this act, and 52-577a:

406 (1) "Asbestos" means the asbestiform varieties of actinolite, amosite,  
407 anthophyllite, chrysotile, crocidolite and tremolite;

408 (2) "Asbestos abatement" means the removal, encapsulation,  
409 enclosure, renovation, repair, demolition or other disturbance of  
410 asbestos-containing materials or suspect asbestos-containing materials,  
411 but does not include activities which are related to (A) the removal or  
412 repair of asbestos cement pipe and are performed by employees of a  
413 water company as defined in section 25-32a, or (B) the removal of  
414 nonfriable asbestos-containing material found exterior to a building or  
415 structure other than material defined as regulated asbestos-containing  
416 material in 40 CFR 61, the National Emission Standards for Hazardous  
417 Air Pollutants, as amended from time to time;

418 (3) "Asbestos abatement worker" means any employee of a licensed  
419 asbestos contractor who engages in asbestos abatement, has completed  
420 a training program approved by the department and has been issued a  
421 certificate by the [department] commissioner;

422 (4) "Asbestos abatement site supervisor" means any asbestos  
423 abatement worker employed by a licensed asbestos contractor who has  
424 been specifically trained as a supervisor in a training program approved  
425 by the [department] commissioner and who has been issued a certificate  
426 by the [department] commissioner;

427 (5) "Asbestos-containing material" means material composed of  
428 asbestos of any type and in an amount equal to or greater than one per  
429 cent by weight, either alone or mixed with other fibrous or nonfibrous  
430 material;

431 (6) "Asbestos contractor" means any person or entity engaged in  
432 asbestos abatement [whose employees actually perform] that actually

433 performs the asbestos abatement work and who has been issued a  
434 license by the commissioner;

435 (7) "Asbestos consultant" means any person who engages in any  
436 activity directly involved with asbestos consultation services and who  
437 has been issued a [certificate] license by the commissioner; [and a license  
438 by the department;]

439 (8) "Asbestos consultation services" means the inspection or  
440 evaluation of a building for asbestos hazards, including, but not limited  
441 to, the development of asbestos abatement plans, site inspections, air  
442 monitoring and provisions of industrial hygiene services related to  
443 asbestos abatement;

444 (9) "Authorized agent" means an officer or employee duly designated  
445 by the commissioner;

446 (10) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

447 (11) "Department" means the Department of Public Health; and

448 (12) "Suspect asbestos-containing materials" means interior and  
449 exterior materials that have a reasonable likelihood of containing  
450 asbestos based on their appearance, composition and use.

451 Sec. 10. Section 20-435 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
452 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

453 [On and after one year following the effective date of regulations  
454 adopted pursuant to section 20-440, no] No person or entity shall  
455 provide services as an asbestos contractor in this state without a license  
456 issued by the Commissioner of Public Health. A person who provides  
457 services as an asbestos contractor shall not perform any duties  
458 associated with those of an asbestos abatement site supervisor unless  
459 such person is certified pursuant to the provisions of section 20-438, as  
460 amended by this act. Applications for such license shall be made to the  
461 Department of Public Health on forms provided by it, shall be  
462 accompanied by a fee of six hundred twenty-five dollars and shall

463 contain such information regarding the applicant's qualifications as the  
464 [department] commissioner may require in regulations adopted  
465 pursuant to section 20-440, as amended by this act, including, but not  
466 limited to, proof of a valid certification as an asbestos abatement site  
467 supervisor if the applicant is an individual, and documentation  
468 demonstrating that all employees have passed a training course, as  
469 defined in section 20-439, as amended by this act, approved by the  
470 [department and have been issued a certificate by the department]  
471 commissioner. The department shall approve the technical, equipment  
472 and personnel resources of each applicant. No person or entity shall be  
473 issued a license to act as an asbestos contractor unless [he] such person  
474 or entity obtains such approval. The commissioner may issue a license  
475 under this section to any person [who] or entity that is licensed in  
476 another state under a law [which] that provides standards which are  
477 equal to or higher than those of Connecticut and is not subject to any  
478 unresolved complaints or pending disciplinary actions. Licenses issued  
479 pursuant to this section shall be renewed annually in accordance with  
480 the provisions of section 19a-88 upon payment of a fee of six hundred  
481 twenty-five dollars.

482 Sec. 11. Section 20-436 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
483 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

484 (a) [On and after one year following the effective date of regulations  
485 adopted pursuant to section 20-440, no] No person shall [act as an]  
486 provide asbestos consultant services in this state without a license  
487 issued by the commissioner. Applications for such license shall be made  
488 to the department on forms provided by it, and shall be accompanied  
489 by a fee of two hundred fifty dollars, and shall contain such information  
490 regarding the applicant's qualifications and experience [in asbestos-  
491 related consultations as the department] related to asbestos consultation  
492 services, including supervised field experience related to asbestos  
493 consultation services, as the commissioner may require in regulations  
494 adopted pursuant to section 20-440, as amended by this act. [Except as  
495 provided in this section, no person shall be licensed as an asbestos  
496 consultant unless he completes a training course approved by the

497 department, passes an examination prescribed by the department,  
498 receives a certificate issued by the department and satisfies employment  
499 experience and educational requirements established by the  
500 commissioner pursuant to section 20-441.] An applicant may apply for  
501 licensure as an asbestos consultant in one or more of the asbestos  
502 consultant services disciplines of inspector, management planner,  
503 project designer or project monitor. The commissioner shall not issue a  
504 license pursuant to the provisions of this section unless an applicant (1)  
505 has successfully completed a training program approved by the  
506 commissioner pursuant to the provisions of section 20-439, as amended  
507 by this act, in the applicant's chosen asbestos consultant services  
508 discipline, and (2) satisfies the experience and educational requirements  
509 established in regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to  
510 section 20-440, as amended by this act. Notwithstanding the provisions  
511 of this subsection, an applicant need not be licensed while in the process  
512 of completing any supervised field experience requirements required by  
513 regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-440, as amended by this act.

514 (b) The commissioner may issue a license under this section without  
515 examination to any person who is licensed in another state under a law  
516 [which] that provides standards equal to or higher than those of  
517 Connecticut and is not subject to any unresolved complaints or pending  
518 disciplinary actions. Licenses issued pursuant to this section shall be  
519 renewed annually in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88  
520 upon payment of a fee of two hundred fifty dollars.

521 [(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
522 a person who between July 1, 1985, and November 1, 1994, has been  
523 employed for a minimum of two years as an asbestos consultant may be  
524 licensed as an asbestos consultant without the educational requirements  
525 established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.]

526 Sec. 12. Section 20-437 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
527 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

528 [On and after one year following the effective date of regulations  
529 adopted pursuant to section 20-440, no] No person shall be employed as

530 an asbestos abatement worker unless such [worker] person has  
531 completed a training program on asbestos hazards and abatement  
532 procedures approved by the [department] commissioner pursuant to  
533 section 20-439, as amended by this act, and has been issued a certificate  
534 by the [department] commissioner. Applications for such certificate  
535 shall be made to the department on forms provided by the department  
536 and shall contain such information regarding the applicant's  
537 qualifications as may be required in regulations adopted pursuant to  
538 section 20-440, as amended by this act, and shall be accompanied by a  
539 fee of fifty dollars. The [department] commissioner may issue a  
540 certificate under this section to any person who is licensed or certified  
541 in another state under a law [which] that provides standards which are  
542 equal to or higher than those of this state, provided such person is not  
543 subject to any unresolved complaints or pending disciplinary actions.  
544 Certificates issued pursuant to this section shall be renewed annually in  
545 accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88 upon payment of a fee  
546 of fifty dollars.

547 Sec. 13. Section 20-438 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
548 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

549 [On and after one year following the effective date of regulations  
550 adopted pursuant to section 20-440, no] No person shall be employed as  
551 an asbestos abatement site supervisor unless such [worker] person has  
552 completed a training program on the supervision of asbestos abatement  
553 approved by the [department] commissioner pursuant to section 20-439,  
554 as amended by this act, and has been issued a certificate by the  
555 [department] commissioner. Applications for such certificate shall be  
556 made to the department on forms provided by the department and shall  
557 contain such information regarding the applicant's qualifications as may  
558 be required in regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-440, as  
559 amended by this act, and shall be accompanied by a fee of one hundred  
560 dollars. The [department] commissioner may issue a certificate under  
561 this section to any person who is licensed or certified in another state  
562 under a law which provides standards which are equal to or higher than  
563 those of the state of Connecticut, provided such person is not subject to

564 any unresolved complaints or pending disciplinary actions. Certificates  
565 issued pursuant to this section shall be renewed annually in accordance  
566 with the provisions of section 19a-88 upon payment of a fee of one  
567 hundred dollars.

568 Sec. 14. Section 20-439 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
569 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

570 [For purposes of this section, "asbestos training provider"] (a) As used  
571 in this section: (1) "Asbestos training provider" means a person or entity  
572 that offers a training program for asbestos abatement or asbestos  
573 [consultation] consultant services and [certifies] issues a certificate of  
574 completion for asbestos abatement workers, asbestos abatement site  
575 supervisors [and] or asbestos consultants [. On and after October 1, 2017,  
576 each asbestos training provider shall be certified by the department. The  
577 department shall issue an initial certification of a provider upon the  
578 provider's completion of an application and payment of a fee of fifty  
579 dollars. The certification] in accordance with the requirements of the  
580 United States Environmental Protection Agency's model accreditation  
581 plan or equivalent training standards recognized by the commissioner;  
582 and (2) "training course" means a specific course offered as part of a  
583 training program by a certified asbestos training provider for asbestos  
584 abatement, asbestos site supervision or asbestos consultant services and  
585 approved in accordance with this section.

586 (b) No person or entity shall act as an asbestos training provider  
587 without a certificate issued by the commissioner. The commissioner  
588 may issue such certificate upon the (1) applicant's submission of a  
589 complete application, (2) payment of a fee of fifty dollars, and (3)  
590 commissioner's determination that the applicant complies with any  
591 requirements established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-  
592 440, as amended by this act, including, but not limited to, standards for  
593 the qualifications of instructors, recordkeeping and documentation  
594 requirements for training course completion. Each certificate issued  
595 pursuant to this section shall be renewed annually in accordance with  
596 the provisions of subsection (e) of section 19a-88 upon payment of a fee

597 of fifty dollars.

598 (c) An asbestos training provider shall submit any training program  
599 to the commissioner for approval prior to implementing such training  
600 program. The [department] commissioner shall approve a training  
601 program for asbestos abatement or asbestos consultant services,  
602 including each training course offered as part of such training program,  
603 upon determination that such program complies with the requirements  
604 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's model  
605 accreditation plan and such requirements as may be established in  
606 regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-440, as amended by this act.  
607 An asbestos training provider shall submit each training program to the  
608 commissioner for reapproval once every three years. Each application  
609 or reapplication for approval of a training program shall be  
610 accompanied by a fee of five hundred dollars. Each application for  
611 approval or reapproval of a refresher training program [as required by  
612 section 20-441] shall be accompanied by a fee of two hundred fifty  
613 dollars. Each asbestos training provider shall furnish the department  
614 with a list of the persons who have successfully completed [the] a  
615 training program or training course [within] not later than thirty days  
616 [of] after such completion. The [department] commissioner shall  
617 conduct periodic reviews of approved training programs and training  
618 courses and may revoke approval of a training program or training  
619 course at any time [it] the commissioner determines that the training  
620 program or training course fails to meet the requirements of this section  
621 or established in such regulations.

622 Sec. 15. Section 20-440 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
623 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

624 (a) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the  
625 provisions of chapter 54 to administer the provisions of subsection (c) of  
626 section 19a-14, and sections [19a-332 and] 20-435 to [20-441] 20-442a,  
627 inclusive, as amended by this act. Such regulations shall include, but not  
628 be limited to, the following: (1) Passing scores for licensure examination  
629 of [asbestos consultants] persons licensed pursuant to this chapter; (2)

630 standards for the licensing of asbestos contractors and asbestos  
631 consultants in each of the asbestos consultant disciplines and for the  
632 certification of asbestos abatement workers and asbestos abatement site  
633 supervisors; (3) standards for approval of asbestos training providers  
634 and training programs [of asbestos abatement and asbestos consultation  
635 services] under section 20-439, as amended by this act, including  
636 standards for successful completion of such programs; (4) standards  
637 and procedures for suspension and revocation of [certification]  
638 licensure of asbestos consultants, asbestos abatement workers and  
639 asbestos abatement supervisors; and (5) standards and procedures for  
640 suspension and [withdrawal] revocation of approval of training  
641 programs.

642 (b) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
643 provisions of chapter 54, to provide for the training of asbestos  
644 abatement site supervisors, asbestos abatement workers and asbestos  
645 consultants, and for the specification of closely related environmental  
646 science degrees. Regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection may  
647 include retraining requirements for employees of asbestos contractors.  
648 The regulations [required] adopted under [subsection (a) of this section]  
649 this subsection shall be revised, as necessary, to ensure that such  
650 regulations meet or exceed the requirements of the United States  
651 Environmental Protection Agency's model accreditation plan in  
652 accordance with federal regulations, as [from time to time] amended  
653 from time to time. The commissioner may implement policies and  
654 procedures necessary to administer the provisions of this section while  
655 in the process of adopting such policies and procedures as regulations,  
656 provided notice of intent to adopt regulations is published on the  
657 eRegulations System not later than twenty days after the date of  
658 implementation. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this  
659 section shall be valid until final regulations are adopted in accordance  
660 with the provisions of chapter 54.

661 Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 20-442a of the general statutes is  
662 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
663 *1, 2026*):

664 (a) The department may deny an application of [an individual] a  
665 person or entity or take any action set forth in section 19a-17 and  
666 subsection (f) of section 19a-88 against a person or entity licensed, [or]  
667 certified or approved pursuant to chapter 400a for [reasons including,  
668 but not limited to,] the following reasons: (1) Conviction of a felony,  
669 provided any action taken is based upon (A) the nature of the conviction  
670 and its relationship to the license or certificate holder's ability to safely  
671 or competently perform the work under such license, (B) information  
672 pertaining to the degree of rehabilitation of the license or certificate  
673 holder, and (C) the time elapsed since the conviction or release; (2) fraud  
674 or deceit in the practice of such person's or entity's profession; (3)  
675 negligent, incompetent or wrongful conduct in professional activities;  
676 (4) misrepresentation or concealment of a material fact in the obtaining,  
677 reinstatement or renewal of a license or certificate; or (5) violation of any  
678 provision of chapter 400a, or any regulation adopted thereunder, or  
679 chapter 368l. The commissioner may petition the superior court for the  
680 judicial district of Hartford to enforce such order or any action taken  
681 pursuant to section 19a-17. Notice of any contemplated action under  
682 section 19a-17, the cause of action and the date of a hearing on the action  
683 shall be given and an opportunity for hearing afforded in accordance  
684 with the provisions of chapter 54.

685 Sec. 17. Section 19a-320 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
686 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

687 (a) Any resident of this state, or any corporation formed under the  
688 law of this state, may erect, maintain and conduct a crematory in this  
689 state and provide the necessary appliances and facilities for the disposal  
690 by incineration of the bodies of the dead, in accordance with the  
691 provisions of this section. The location of such crematory shall be within  
692 the confines of an established cemetery containing not less than twenty  
693 acres, which cemetery shall have been in existence and operation for at  
694 least five years immediately preceding the time of the erection of such  
695 crematory, or shall be within the confines of a plot of land approved for  
696 the location of a crematory by the selectmen of any town, the mayor and  
697 council or board of aldermen of any city and the warden and burgesses

698 of any borough; provided, in any town, city or borough having a zoning  
699 commission, such commission shall have the authority to grant such  
700 approval. On and after July 1, 2017, no new crematory shall be located  
701 within five hundred feet of any residential structure or land for  
702 residential purposes not owned by the owner of the crematory. The  
703 location requirements in this subsection shall not apply to a crematory  
704 performing only alkaline hydrolysis at a funeral home pursuant to  
705 subsection (d) of this section.

706 (b) Application for such approval shall be made in writing to the local  
707 authority specified in subsection (a) of this section and a hearing shall  
708 be held within the town, city or borough in which such location is  
709 situated within sixty-five days from the date of receipt of such  
710 application. Notice of such hearing shall be given to such applicant by  
711 mail, postage paid, to the address given on the application, and to the  
712 Commissioner of Public Health, and by publication twice in a  
713 newspaper having a substantial circulation in the town, city or borough  
714 at intervals of not less than two days, the first being not more than fifteen  
715 days or less than ten days, and the second being not less than two days  
716 before such hearing. The local authority shall approve or deny such  
717 application within sixty-five days after such hearing, provided an  
718 extension of time not to exceed a further period of sixty-five days may  
719 be had with the consent of the applicant. The grounds for its action shall  
720 be stated in the records of the authority. Each applicant shall pay a fee  
721 of ten dollars, together with the costs of the publication of such notice  
722 and the reasonable expense of such hearing, to the treasurer of such  
723 town, city or borough.

724 (c) (1) No such crematory shall be erected until the plans therefor  
725 have been filed with and approved by the Department of Public Health;  
726 and no such crematory shall be used until it has been inspected and  
727 received a certificate of inspection by said department and a fee of one  
728 thousand two hundred fifty dollars is paid to the Department of Public  
729 Health for its inspection and approval.

730 (2) Each holder of an inspection certificate shall, annually, on or

731 before July first, submit in writing to the Department of Public Health  
732 an application for renewal of such certificate together with a fee of three  
733 hundred fifteen dollars. If the department issues to such applicant such  
734 an inspection certificate, the same shall be valid until July first next  
735 following, unless revoked or suspended.

736 (3) Upon receipt of an application for a renewal of such certificate, the  
737 Department of Public Health shall make an inspection of each  
738 crematory.

739 (4) A crematory shall be open at all times for inspection by the  
740 Department of Public Health. The department may make inspections  
741 whenever it deems advisable.

742 (5) If, upon inspection by the Department of Public Health, it is found  
743 that such crematory is in such condition as to be detrimental to public  
744 health, the department shall give to the applicant or operator of the  
745 crematory notice and opportunity for hearing as provided in regulations  
746 adopted by the Commissioner of Public Health, in accordance with the  
747 provisions of chapter 54. The commissioner may, after such hearing,  
748 revoke, suspend or refuse to issue or renew any such certificate upon  
749 cause found at hearing. Any person aggrieved by the finding of or action  
750 taken by the Department of Public Health may appeal therefrom in  
751 accordance with the provisions of section 4-183.

752 (6) Any of the inspections provided for in this section may be made  
753 by a person designated by the Department of Public Health or by a  
754 representative of the Commissioner of Public Health.

755 (d) A crematory that performs alkaline hydrolysis shall be located on  
756 the grounds of a funeral home licensed under chapter 385.

757 (e) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
758 provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section,  
759 including, but not limited to, establishing technical standards for the use  
760 of alkaline hydrolysis and other chemical processes for cremation and  
761 the disposal of any products or by-products used in such processes. The

762 commissioner may adopt policies and procedures necessary to  
763 implement the provisions of this section while in the process of adopting  
764 such policies and procedures as regulations, provided the department  
765 posts such policies and procedures on the eRegulations System not later  
766 than twenty days after the date of implementation of such policies and  
767 procedures. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this  
768 section shall be valid until final regulations are adopted in accordance  
769 with the provisions of chapter 54.

770 Sec. 18. Section 8-2n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
771 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

772 The zoning regulations adopted under section 8-2 or any special act  
773 shall not authorize the location of a crematory within five hundred feet  
774 of any residential structure or land zoned for residential purposes not  
775 owned by the owner of the crematory. As used in this section,  
776 "crematory" means a building or structure containing one or more  
777 cremation chambers or retorts for the cremation of dead human  
778 bodies or large animals but does not include a funeral home that  
779 performs cremation only by alkaline hydrolysis pursuant to the  
780 provisions of subsection (d) of section 19a-320, as amended by this act,  
781 and "large animals" means all cattle, horses, sheep, goat, swine or  
782 similar species commonly kept as livestock.

783 Sec. 19. Section 20-442 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
784 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

785 Employees of the Connecticut Labor Department performing their  
786 duties in accordance with chapter 571 and federal employees of the  
787 Occupational Safety and Health Administration performing their duties  
788 in accordance with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act are  
789 exempt from the requirements of sections 19a-332d, 19a-332e and 20-435  
790 to [20-441] 20-440, inclusive, as amended by this act.

791 Sec. 20. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 19a-37 of the 2026  
792 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
793 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

794 (1) "Laboratory or firm" means an environmental laboratory  
795 [registered] certified by the Department of Public Health pursuant to  
796 section 19a-29a, as amended by this act;

797 Sec. 21. Section 20-441 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*  
798 *October 1, 2026*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-150
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-150a(a)(2)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-150b(c)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-150c(a)(2)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	21a-150d(d)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	19a-37k
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	19a-29a
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	19a-14d(a)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	19a-332
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	20-435
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	20-436
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	20-437
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	20-438
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	20-439
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	20-440
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	20-442a(a)
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	19a-320
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	8-2n
Sec. 19	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	20-442
Sec. 20	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	19a-37(a)(1)
Sec. 21	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	Repealer section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 11(a)(2), "adopted" was added for consistency with the general statutes, and in Section 17(a), "under subsection (d) of this section" was changed to "pursuant to subsection (d) of this section" for grammar.

**PH** Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill makes various unrelated changes to environmental health and drinking water statutes, resulting in a potential General Fund revenue gain beginning in FY 27 as described below.

Section 7 expands the Department of Public Health's (DPH) oversight of environmental laboratories, including the ability to assess certain civil penalties<sup>1</sup> against out-of-state laboratories' in-state service centers, resulting in a potential General Fund revenue gain beginning in FY 27. The exact revenue gain, if any, is dependent on the number of violations and DPH's discretion in assessing civil penalties.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of violations and value of assessed civil penalties.

<sup>1</sup> DPH may issue civil fines of up to \$5,000 per day for environmental laboratory violations, which is extended to in-state service centers by the bill.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5518*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER STATUTES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes various unrelated changes to statutory provisions on the regulation of public drinking water and environmental laboratories that test water sources, oversight of asbestos professionals, and crematories. Principally, it:

1. makes changes to the Department of Public Health's (DPH) oversight of bottled water and water sources, such as specifically (a) requiring the commissioner to annually issue a schedule of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and unregulated contaminants in drinking water and (b) allowing DPH to set conditions on its approval of bottled water sources (§§ 1-6);
2. (a) requires certain out-of-state environmental laboratories to get the department's approval before operating service centers (collection sites) in the state, (b) allows DPH to implement policies and procedures on environmental laboratory regulation while in the process of adopting regulations, and (c) makes other changes affecting these laboratories (§§ 7 & 20);
3. makes various changes to laws on asbestos professional credentialing, including certain changes to conform to existing practice or regulation (§§ 8-16, 19, & 21);
4. exempts crematories that perform only alkaline hydrolysis at funeral homes from the law's general restrictions on crematories being near residential properties (§§ 17 & 18); and

5. allows DPH to adopt policies and procedures and regulations on crematories, including on alkaline hydrolysis and other chemical cremation processes (§ 17).

The bill also makes several minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the alkaline hydrolysis and crematory provisions are effective upon passage.

## **§§ 1-6 — BOTTLED WATER AND WATER SOURCES**

### ***Conditions on Source Approval (§ 2)***

By law, sellers or distributors of bottled water from in-state sources must get DPH approval after an inspection of the water source. The bill specifically allows DPH to set terms or conditions on its approval as the commissioner deems necessary to address quality and safety issues. Under existing law, the approval is good for three years.

### ***DPH Schedule of PFAS and Unregulated Contaminants and Required Testing (§ 3)***

By law, bottlers must annually collect water samples from each DPH-approved source and get them tested (before any water treatment) through an environmental laboratory for PFAS and other unregulated contaminants.

The bill specifically requires the DPH commissioner, at least annually, to issue a schedule that lists PFAS and unregulated contaminants and the acceptable levels or standards for each in drinking water. She must update the schedule as she deems necessary. (Currently, DPH issues an action level list setting contaminant levels for drinking water, above which DPH or the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection may take certain actions.)

Correspondingly, starting by January 1, 2027, the bill requires that bottlers' testing of water sources tests for (1) compliance with the levels or standards set in DPH's schedule and (2) physical, chemical, radiological, and microbiological standards set in DPH regulations.

For these purposes, the bill defines PFAS as any of five specific substances (for example, perfluorooctanoic acid or perfluoronoanoic acid) or any other perfluoroalkyl substances that the commissioner determines require an action level to protect public health, safety, or welfare.

The bill also revises the definition of “unregulated contaminant.” Current law defines this term as a contaminant for which DPH, under existing law, has set a level at which it creates, or can be reasonably expected to create, an unacceptable risk to health or safety. The bill instead defines it as any chemical, physical, biological, or radiological substance in a bottled water source (other than PFAS) for which there is no state or federal statutory or regulatory drinking water health standard.

(Existing law also requires water bottlers to collect samples from each approved source at least once a year to test for regulated contaminants and at least once every three years for unregulated contaminants for which allowable levels have not been established.)

#### ***Bottler Reporting (§ 5)***

By law, bottlers must report the testing results to DPH and the Department of Consumer Protection. The bill specifies that they must do so in a way the DPH commissioner sets.

Under current law, if the testing results exceed DPH’s set level for PFAS or unregulated contaminants, the department may require the bottler to stop using that water source until the problem is resolved. The bill instead grants DPH this authority if the testing results fail to meet the (1) PFAS or unregulated contaminant levels or standards in DPH’s schedule or (2) physical, chemical, radiological, and microbiological standards in DPH regulations.

#### ***Property Owner Notification to Tenants (§ 6)***

Existing law requires commercial and residential property owners to notify tenants and lessees whenever the property’s water supply is tested and exceeds certain thresholds. Currently, this requirement

applies if the water exceeds any maximum contaminant level in state regulations or DPH's state drinking water action level list. The bill makes a conforming change by requiring this notice when the water exceeds the level in regulations or in the DPH schedule for PFAS or unregulated contaminants.

## **§§ 7 & 20 — ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES**

### ***Certification Requirement***

By law, DPH regulates environmental laboratories that test drinking water, sewage, soil, and other environmental samples for contaminants.

Under current law, DPH must determine whether it is necessary for the protection of the public health or the environment to require an environmental laboratory to register with DPH and obtain certification to conduct analyte testing in a matrix; if so, the laboratory must obtain DPH certification to do these tests. The bill eliminates this determination and instead requires environmental laboratories to be certified, rather than registered, with DPH. The certification must set forth the specific analytes that may be tested and the acceptable testing methods (see below).

The bill specifies that the certification requirement applies to owning a laboratory, as well as managing or controlling one as under current law, that tests for analytes on DPH's list (see below).

Current law allows DPH to revoke or otherwise limit a laboratory's credential if it fails to comply with applicable law or regulations. The bill instead specifically prohibits DPH from certifying an environmental laboratory until the laboratory shows its compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The bill exempts state-owned or -operated laboratories from the existing \$1,250 certification application fee other applicants must pay.

### ***Regulations and Policies and Procedures***

Existing law requires DPH to adopt regulations setting standards on various issues related to environmental laboratories. The bill requires

the regulations to include standards for service centers (in-state collection sites operated solely to collect samples to be tested at a certified environmental laboratory or out-of-state one). It eliminates the requirement for the regulations to set a civil penalty schedule (existing law sets a maximum \$5,000 per day penalty for violations of the law or regulations).

The bill also allows the commissioner to adopt implementing policies and procedures while in the process of adopting regulations, as long as DPH posts them on the eRegulations System within 20 days after they are implemented. The policies and procedures are valid until the final regulations are adopted.

### ***Acceptable Testing Methods***

By law, DPH must annually publish a list of analytes and matrices that require certification for testing. The bill requires the list to include the specific acceptable testing methods.

By law, an “analyte” is a microbiological, chemical, radiological, or other matrix component being measured by an analytical test. Similar to current law, a “matrix” is the substance or medium in which an analyte may be contained, including drinking water or wastewater.

### ***Exemption***

Currently, an environmental laboratory is exempt from these laws if it only provides laboratory services or information for its owner or operator. The bill specifies that for the exemption to apply, the laboratory must use laboratory results solely for the owner’s or operator’s own information. It also prohibits anyone from using these results to show compliance with statutory or regulatory requirements.

### ***Enforcement***

Existing law requires the commissioner to give an opportunity for a hearing if she imposes a civil penalty on an environmental laboratory. The bill also specifically requires this when she issues other orders connected with a violation.

Under the bill, if an environmental laboratory fails to comply with the law or regulations, DPH may take a range of other disciplinary actions, such as revoking or suspending the laboratory's certification, placing the certificate holder on probationary status, or imposing a corrective action plan (as under existing law for health care institutions). DPH must also summarily suspend a laboratory's certification before the final adjudication or during the appeals process if the laboratory presents a clear and present danger to public health and safety if it continues to operate.

The bill explicitly allows DPH to impose a \$5,000 daily civil fine on an environmental laboratory that operates without the required certification. (It does not specifically give them the right to a hearing.)

### ***Out-of-State Laboratories***

Under the bill, if an out-of-state laboratory is not DPH-certified but seeks to operate an in-state service center (collection site), it must apply to DPH for approval. This applies only if the lab's testing results are used to show Connecticut statutory or regulatory compliance. (Existing regulations require out-of-state laboratories to get DPH's approval to test samples that originate in the state (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 19a-36-A33(c).)

The commissioner may approve the application if the laboratory shows that (1) it is certified in its home state to test for analytes using a method on the DPH list and (2) the service center's policies and procedures suffice to protect the integrity of the tested samples. The approval is good for two years and is renewable.

The bill allows DPH to inspect these service centers at any time and revoke an approval if needed to protect public health. The commissioner may also issue civil fines of up to \$5,000 per day if the out-of-state laboratory violated the law or regulations. In assessing the penalty, she must consider the same factors as under existing law when deciding the fine amount for in-state laboratories (the degree of the threat, amount needed to achieve compliance, and laboratory's compliance history).

The commissioner must give the laboratory the opportunity for a hearing, and any penalty or approval revocation may be appealed to Superior Court.

## **§§ 8-16, 19 & 21 — ASBESTOS PROFESSIONALS**

### ***Asbestos Contractors (§ 10)***

The bill prohibits anyone who provides services as an asbestos contractor from performing any duties associated with those of asbestos abatement site supervisors unless the person is certified as a site supervisor. It also requires individuals applying for an asbestos contractor license to give proof of this certification.

### ***Asbestos Consultants (§ 11)***

Under existing law, applications for an asbestos consultant license must contain information, as DPH may require in regulations, on the applicant's relevant experience. The bill specifies that this includes supervised field experience. It also allows applicants, before getting their license, to complete this supervised field experience as required by regulations.

The bill conforms to existing regulations by allowing asbestos consultant licensure applicants to apply in one or more disciplines, including as an inspector, management planner, project designer, or project monitor.

The bill also makes minor and clarifying changes to licensure qualifications, such as eliminating a separate exam requirement (in practice, the training program includes an examination).

### ***Asbestos Training Providers (§ 14)***

The bill specifically requires, as part of the eligibility criteria to become a certified asbestos training provider, that the applicant have complied with requirements in DPH regulations, including standards for instructor qualifications, record keeping, and course completion documentation.

Existing law subjects training programs to DPH's approval. Under

the bill, these programs and courses must comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) model accreditation plan, as well as DPH regulations as under current law. The bill also requires training providers to submit programs to DPH for reapproval every three years.

The bill specifies that when asbestos training providers issue a certification of training completion (for abatement workers, site supervisors, or consultants), this must be done in line with requirements under the EPA's model accreditation plan or equivalent DPH-recognized standards.

***Regulations (§§ 15 & 21)***

Existing law requires DPH to adopt regulations on specified matters related to asbestos professionals. The bill generally conforms to existing practice by requiring the regulations to set:

1. licensure standards in each of the four consultant disciplines;
2. certification standards for asbestos abatement workers and site supervisors; and
3. approval standards for training providers.

The bill repeals and replaces a provision on permissive regulations on training, specifying that the regulations may address (1) training, not just retraining and (2) retraining requirements for contractors' employees.

As is already the case for the mandatory regulations, the bill allows the commissioner to implement policies and procedures while adopting the permissive regulations, as long as she posts her intent to adopt regulations on the eRegulations system within 20 days after the policies and procedures are implemented. The policies and procedures are valid until regulations are adopted.

***Application Denials or Disciplinary Action (§ 16)***

The bill makes various clarifying changes to DPH's disciplinary

authority regarding asbestos professionals. These include specifying that:

1. DPH's authority to deny applications for specified misconduct applies to entities, not just individuals (for example, a company applying for a contractor license) and
2. DPH may deny an application or take other disciplinary action for violations of separate laws on asbestos abatement, not just the laws on professional credentialing.

### ***Professionals Credentialed Elsewhere (§ 8)***

The bill removes asbestos professionals from a law that generally requires DPH to issue a credential to someone credentialed in another state who meets specified experience and background requirements (for example, practiced under their current credential for at least four years and has no disciplinary history).

It retains separate existing provisions on DPH's authority to issue certain licenses or certifications by endorsement to applicants credentialed in states whose standards are the same as, or higher than, Connecticut's.

### **§§ 17 & 18 — ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS AND CREMATORIES**

PA 24-68 added alkaline hydrolysis to the statutory definition of cremation, and allows a crematory to perform alkaline hydrolysis only if it is located on the grounds of a licensed funeral home. Generally, "alkaline hydrolysis" is a flameless cremation method that uses water, chemicals, heat, and pressure to accelerate a body's natural decomposition.

The bill exempts crematories that perform only alkaline hydrolysis at funeral homes from the law's prohibition on crematories being within 500 feet of residential structures or residential-zoned land not owned by the crematory's owner.

The bill also allows the DPH commissioner to adopt regulations on

crematories, including to set technical standards for alkaline hydrolysis and other chemical cremation processes and the disposal of products or by-products used in these processes. The commissioner may adopt policies and procedures while in the process of adopting regulations, as long as they are posted on the eRegulations system within 20 days after they are implemented. Any such policies and procedures are valid until the regulations are adopted.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 11 (03/23/2026)