



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 397

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5522

House of Representatives, April 2, 2026

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. PARKER of the 101st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE SEWAGE RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT AND
REQUIRING A REPORT CONCERNING WELL CONTAMINATION
PROTOCOLS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 22a-424a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) For the purposes of this section:

4 (1) "Sewage treatment plant or collection system" means any sewage
5 treatment plant, water pollution control facility, related pumping
6 station, collection system or other public sewage works;

7 (2) "Sewage spill" means the diversion of wastes from any portion of
8 a sewage treatment plant or collection system in this state;

9 (3) "Combined sewer" means structures which are designed to
10 convey both sanitary and storm sewage, and allow the overflow of such
11 combined sewage, untreated, to the waters of the state during periods

12 of high flows; and

13 (4) "Electronic report" means a reporting form that uses an electronic
14 format as prescribed by the Commissioner of Energy and
15 Environmental Protection.

16 (b) On and after July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Energy and
17 Environmental Protection shall post, on the department's Internet web
18 site, a map of the state indicating where sewage spills, anticipated
19 combined sewer overflows and permitted sewage bypasses occur. The
20 Internet web site shall include all information posted pursuant to
21 subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section and shall be current.

22 (c) (1) On and after July 1, 2014, not later than two hours after receipt
23 of any report submitted pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection,
24 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall post,
25 on the department's Internet web site, notice of any such reported
26 sewage spills and permitted sewage bypasses. Any notice or report
27 posted pursuant to this subsection shall contain the following relevant
28 information as best determined by the operator of the sewage treatment
29 plant or collection system that filed the subject report: (A) The estimated
30 volume or rate of discharge and, once known, the final volume
31 discharged; (B) the level of treatment of the discharge; (C) the date and
32 time the incident occurred; (D) the location of the discharge; (E) once
33 known, the estimated or actual time the discharge ceased; (F) the
34 geographic area impacted by the discharge; (G) once known, the steps
35 taken to contain the discharge; (H) reasonable public health, safety or
36 welfare concerns or environmental concerns; and (I) public safety
37 precautions that should be taken.

38 (2) On and after July 1, 2018, not later than two hours after becoming
39 aware of any sewage spill or permitted sewage bypass, the operator of
40 a sewage treatment plant or collection system shall submit an electronic
41 report to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection that
42 includes all of the information required for any notice or report posted
43 in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection.
44 Such report shall be updated by the operator on a daily basis for each

45 additional day that the sewage spill or permitted sewage bypass
46 continues after the submittal of the initial report and until such time as
47 the sewage spill or permitted sewage bypass ceases. Any such report
48 shall be posted on the Internet web site of such operator.

49 (3) On and after July 1, 2018, not later than two hours after becoming
50 aware of any sewage spill or permitted sewage bypass that reaches a
51 water body or may come in contact with the general public, the operator
52 of a sewage treatment plant or collection system shall notify the chief
53 elected official, or such official's designee, and the local public health
54 official of the municipality where the sewage spill or permitted sewage
55 bypass occurred and the chief elected official, or such official's designee,
56 and the local public health official of any municipality that may be
57 potentially impacted downstream by such spill or sewage bypass. As
58 soon as practicable, but not later than two hours after receipt of any such
59 notice pursuant to this subdivision, each such chief elected official, in
60 conjunction with the local public health official, shall inform the public
61 of any sewage spill or permitted sewage bypass that has the potential to
62 impact public health, safety or the environment. Any such information
63 provided to the public may be provided through the use of social media
64 and shall be provided in each predominant language spoken by the
65 residents of such municipality. The Commissioner of Energy and
66 Environmental Protection shall require such operator to post a sign at
67 the location of such spill or sewage bypass that contains the information
68 provided to public officials pursuant to this subsection. Any such sign
69 shall be posted within the timeframe prescribed by the commissioner.

70 (4) Not later than December 1, [2021] 2026, the Department of Energy
71 and Environmental Protection shall implement a real-time public
72 notification system that is separate from and independent of any social
73 media platform, through which the public may [choose to be notified of]
74 sign up to receive alerts directly to such person's phone via text message
75 or electronic mail, of any sewage spills or permitted sewage bypasses as
76 such sewage spills or permitted sewage bypasses are reported
77 electronically to said department. Such real-time public notifications
78 shall occur not later than two hours after said department's receipt of

79 any such report.

80 (5) Not later than February 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the
81 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall publish and
82 make publicly available on the department's Internet web site an annual
83 report that includes a summary of the sewage spills that occurred within
84 each municipality during such year, a summary of sewage spills that
85 reached named or identified water bodies, a summary of the total
86 volume of each category of sewage spill and any enforcement actions
87 taken by the department related to such sewage spills.

88 (d) Any report to the Department of Energy and Environmental
89 Protection that is required pursuant to section 22a-430-3 of the
90 regulations of Connecticut state agencies shall be submitted as an
91 electronic report.

92 (e) The failure to file an electronic report pursuant to any provision
93 of this section shall be deemed a violation of the provisions of this
94 section for purposes of section 22a-438.

95 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Energy and
96 Environmental Protection, in accordance with the provisions of section
97 11-4a of the general statutes and not later than January 1, 2027, shall
98 submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
99 having cognizance of matters relating to the environment on the
100 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's protocols for
101 interacting with the Department of Public Health and local departments
102 of health in the event of private well contamination in a community.
103 Such report shall detail any prohibitions on the sharing of information
104 among such public agencies and the reasons for such prohibitions.
105 Additionally, such report shall detail the degree to which the
106 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection canvasses a
107 community in the event of such private well contamination to enable
108 potentially affected homeowners and commercial property owners to
109 learn about such contamination and take any requisite or recommended
110 steps to ensure the health and safety of private wells in the community.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	22a-424a
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	102,921	102,921
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	38,860	38,860

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to maintain and update a database and public notification system related to various sewage spills or permitted sewage bypass (discharge). This will result in a cost to the state of approximately \$141,781 annually, beginning in FY 27.

The requirements in the bill will require an Environmental Analyst 2 to maintain and update the database as well as provide technical assistance for entities reporting spills. It is estimated that DEEP receives approximately 1,000 reports that will require entry into the public notification system. The Environmental Analyst 2 position results in a cost of approximately \$92,921 with corresponding fringe benefits of \$38,860. Additionally, DEEP will require \$10,000 annually for setup, licensing, and equipment to support the independent public notification system.

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.82% of payroll in FY 27.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above will continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5522

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE SEWAGE RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT AND
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PROTOCOLS.***

SUMMARY

By law, within two hours after becoming aware of any sewage spill or permitted sewage bypass (discharge), the operator of a sewage treatment plant or collection system (operator) must report electronically to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) about the discharge. The report must be updated daily while the discharge continues. This bill requires the report to be posted on the operator's website.

Also by law, within two hours after becoming aware of a discharge that reaches a waterbody, or may come into contact with the general public, the operator must notify certain local officials about the discharge. Under the bill, the DEEP commissioner must require the operator to post, in a timeframe DEEP sets, a sign at the location of the discharge with the information the operator gave those local officials.

Under the bill, by December 1, 2026, DEEP must implement a real-time public notification system that is separate and independent from any social media platform and allows the public to sign up to receive alerts, directly to their phone via text message or email, within two hours after discharges being reported to DEEP. This replaces a current similar requirement, although current law does not (1) require the system to be separate from social media or (2) specify the alert methods.

Lastly, the bill requires DEEP, by January 1, 2027, to submit a report to the Environment Committee on its protocols for interacting with the Department of Public Health and local health departments when a

private well contamination occurs. The report must contain any prohibitions on information sharing between these public agencies, and the reasons for those prohibitions. It must detail how DEEP canvasses a community when private well contaminations occur to inform potentially affected homeowners and commercial property owners about the contamination and any needed or recommended steps to ensure the health and safety of private wells.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

DEEP Real-Time Public Notification System

Currently, DEEP uses a combination of the CT DEEP Performance Dashboard and a social media account to inform the public about unanticipated sewage spills.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/18/2026)