

# Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** HB-5167 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS FOR CERTAIN PRIVATE AND SEMIPUBLIC WELLS.

**Vote Date:** 3/2/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/18/2026

**File No.:** 24

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Public Health Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

HB 5167 addresses a gap in communications involving well water testing by allowing disclosure of the testing results to the owner of any residential property, or the owner of an adjacent property connected to the tested well. The testing process is also streamlined by removing the required approval of the commissioner of the Department of Public Health (DPH).

## **SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):**

No Substitute Language.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None expressed.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Matthew W. Hart, Executive Director, Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG):**

HB 5167 seeks to permit the disclosure of private well and semipublic well water quality test results to the local health authority of the municipality where the property is located and the Department of Public Health. The local public health authority may disclose these test results to the property owner, the owner of any other property that obtains water from the well, adjacent property owners, prospective buyers, and other persons when statutorily

appropriate. It is important that public health entities at the local, regional, and state level can share water quality data in a timely and readily available manner to protect public health and to minimize exposure to harmful contaminants. Transparency in environmental health reporting should be the rule, not the exception.

**Stephanie Johnson, Director of Health, Farmington Valley Health District:**

HB 5167 provides two critical improvements: 1. It removes the requirement for the approval of the commissioner of DPH prior to releasing certain private well water testing data for legitimate public health purposes; and 2. It clarifies that neighboring property owners may access relevant groundwater information that may directly affect their health and safety. These changes restore clarity to the statute, reduce administrative burden, and allow local health officials to respond efficiently to contamination concerns. Importantly, they strengthen transparency and support informed decision-making by Connecticut residents.

**Patrick McCormack, Director of Health, Uncas Health District:**

Eliminating the Commissioner-approval requirement is both practical and appropriate. This additional administrative step adds delay without improving oversight or public health outcomes. Current law places local health departments in the difficult position of balancing transparency, privacy, and statutory interpretation without uniform statewide guidance. HB 5167 restores decision-making to the local level, where Directors of Health are statutorily charged with protecting the health of their communities.

**Others in support:**

- Jim Heckman, General Counsel, CT Realtors
- Trisharina Branford, President, CT Environmental Health Association (CEHA)
- Joseph Depa, President, CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH)

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Dave Rackliffe, Asst. Clerk**

**Date: 3/5/2026**