



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5522**

February Session, 2026



**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 Section 22a-424a of the general statutes is repealed and the  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.*