
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5167

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

SUMMARY

This bill removes the requirement for the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner's approval before health authorities can disclose private residential or semipublic well testing results to certain parties, and expands the allowable recipients of the test results.

More specifically, the law requires an environmental laboratory that conducts water quality testing for these wells to report the results to DPH and the local health authority. Current law allows DPH and the local health authority, with the DPH commissioner's approval, to disclose the test results or related investigation information to certain parties. The bill eliminates the requirement for the commissioner's approval, and expands the allowable parties to include the owner of (1) any other property that obtains water from the well or (2) any property next to the property (a) where the well is located or (b) that obtains water from the well.

Under existing law, DPH and the local health authority (currently, only with the commissioner's approval) may also disclose the test results or investigation information to the following:

1. the property owner,
2. a prospective buyer who has signed a purchase contract,
3. a state agency's agent, or
4. other people or entities when disclosure is needed for DPH or the local health authority to carry out their duties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 31 Nay 0 (03/02/2026)