



1245 Farmington Ave #103 West Hartford, CT 06107 ☎860.841.7350

Public Hearing Scheduled Fire Protection Charges Your Action Needed!

A public hearing will be held on March 5 on **SB-969**, which would prohibit water companies from assessing municipalities fire protection charges for 1) water lines that are not connected to a hydrant 2) water lines or hydrants that are not owned and maintained by such water company and 3) water lines that are located on private property. In addition, the bill would require water companies to obtain approval from the fire marshal and chief administrative officer in a municipality before installing any water line or fire hydrant.

This bill would be very impractical to implement, undermine municipal development and water company asset management efforts, and result in added costs for some municipalities.

The need to provide fire protection controls the design of many components of a water system including water mains, pumps, and storage tanks. **The cost of the added investment to upsize these components, and the cost to install and maintain fire hydrants is often allocated between the municipalities that benefit from them in proportion to the amount of water main and fire hydrants in each town.** This is similar to how assessments are used by municipalities to allocate real estate taxes between property owners.

Water mains that are not directly connected to a fire hydrant, or that are located on private property, can still provide water to fire hydrants elsewhere in a municipality and are appropriately and equitably included in the allocation of fire service charges between municipalities.

Similar to the way reducing property assessments require an increase in mil rate, eliminating fire service charges for certain water mains and hydrants would require an increase in fire service rates, and decreasing the fire service assessment to one municipality will require an increase in the assessment to others.

Finally, requiring fire marshal and chief administrator approval of all water main installations could result in delays or rejections, undermining a water companies' efforts to upgrade its aging infrastructure or construct a development that has received all other necessary state and municipal approvals.

March 5, 10:00 a.m.

Register to Testify via Zoom - Use this [link](#) to register. Registration closes on March 4, 3:00 p.m. Speaker Order will be posted on the Planning & Development Committee's website under Public Hearing Testimony.

Written Testimony: Written testimony may be emailed in a word or PDF document to PDtestimony@cga.ct.gov.

Planning & Development Committee Members - Here is a [list of legislators](#) serving on the committee and the towns they represent. **If these lawmakers represent towns in your service area, please reach out to raise concerns with the bill.**

Assignment of Water, Sewer & Property Tax Liens Public Hearing

SB-941 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSIGNMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY, TAX, WATER AND SEWER LIENS - Reduces the interest that may be charged on municipal tax liens that have been assigned for collection to 6% and imposes certain contractual requirements on the assignment of unpaid property tax, water and sewer liens, including notice of any such assignment to persons responsible for the payment of the liens.

SB-150 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY - (1) Establishes a new quasi-public agency to facilitate and finance the development of public infrastructure projects with the highest quality standards at the lowest cost, (2) prioritizes the public's interest in public infrastructure projects.

March 2, 10:00 a.m.

Register to Testify via Zoom - Use this [link](#) to register. Registration closes on March 1, 3:00 p.m. Speaker Order will be posted on the Banking Committee's website under Public Hearing Testimony.

Written Testimony: Written testimony may be emailed in a word or PDF document to BAtestimony@cga.ct.gov.

Building Better Water Rates in an Uncertain World - Workshop

You are cordially invited to participate in a 2-day virtual workshop on:

- Rates;
- Water utility revenue stability; and
- Conservation pricing

This virtual workshop, sponsored by the State of Connecticut Water Planning Council, is to be held from **9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EST on March 16-17, 2021.**

This free workshop will provide practical advice and tools to help water utilities navigate their rate setting requirements. Advanced registration is required and both the agenda and registration links have been provided below.

[Link to Workshop Registration](#)

[Link to Workshop Agenda](#)

www.cwwa.org
