



Guidance for Submitting Written Testimony – S.585/H.900, *An Act Protecting Drinking Water Quality in Private Wells*

About the Legislation:

An Act Protecting Drinking Water Quality in Private Wells (bill numbers [S.585/H.900](#)) aims to provide protections for households who rely on private wells for their drinking water. This bill would enable the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to develop a set of health-based regulations which would provide statewide water quality standards for private drinking water wells.

The legislation would grant MassDEP clear authority to establish standards and define testing requirements for new and existing wells to ensure effective implementation. Upon sale of a home, a private well used for drinking water would have to pass a test for the transaction to be completed (similar to the state's Title 5 septic system regulations).

For more information about private wells, potential contaminants, why regulations are needed, and the Coalition for Safe Drinking Water, please visit: www.whatsinyourwellwater.org.

Tips for Submitting Testimony:

- Write from a personal perspective. Focus on details as to how this legislation would impact you.
- Consider the group you represent. Are you a homeowner? Health agent? Town administrator? Other stakeholder? Share why being a member of one of these groups led you to supporting this act.
- Keep it short and sweet! Be sure to focus on the key points:
 - The importance of statewide private well regulations
 - The fact that there are currently no regulations to ensure private well water is free of contaminants
 - Ensuring private well water is held to similar standards as public drinking water
 - [The many health problems that contaminants can cause](#)

Where to Send Your Testimony:

Written testimony should be emailed to: JointCommittee.Environment@malegislature.gov or physically mailed to:

Chair Christine Barber
Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
ATTN: Jacob Newman
24 Beacon Street, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

Don't forget to cc communications@rcapsolutions.org as well as your local legislators (find the contact information for your legislators by [clicking here](#).)



Sample Testimony:

To the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

I am writing in support of S.585 and H.900, *An Act Protecting Drinking Water Quality in Private Wells* (sponsored by Senator Jamie Eldridge, Representative Natalie Blais, and Representative Meghan Kilcoyne). This bill would enable the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to develop a set of health-based regulations which would provide statewide water quality standards for private drinking water wells.

Over 500,000 residents in Massachusetts rely on private wells for their drinking water, yet there are no statewide regulations to ensure their water is safe and free of contaminants such as arsenic, E. coli, radon, uranium, and PFAS. In contrast, public water systems are subject to MassDEP Drinking Water Regulations (310 CMR 22.00), which set enforceable legal standards for water quality by which public utilities are required to comply.

From 2020 to 2022, the Private Well Program to Protect Public Health (a community partnership led by RCAP Solutions and The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts), conducted over 500 water quality tests across several Massachusetts towns and found that approximately 32% of wells had levels of contaminants exceeding state health standards and/or suggesting potential health risks.

The longer we delay action, the longer private well owners remain at risk of drinking water with harmful contaminants. These health-based regulations for private wells would lead to a public health benefit. I hope that you will report S.585/H.900, *An Act Protecting Drinking Water Quality in Private Wells*, favorably out of committee. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR ORGANIZATION, IF APPLICABLE]