

Landmark Private Well Legislation Filed



Photo credit: RCAP Solutions

Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Dan Sena recently filed legislation ([SD2903](#) / [HD4693](#)) to authorize MassDEP to develop private well regulations, as reported in this [Community Advocate article](#) and this [press release](#). Currently, there are no statewide private well regulations to ensure that private well water is safe from harmful contaminants such as arsenic, E. coli, PFAS, and uranium. Local Boards of Health *may* regulate private wells, but there is significant variation across the state, with some towns having stringent private well regulations while others have outdated or nonexistent regulations. In contrast, public water systems are regulated by the state and subject to routine testing for contaminants.

This legislation was developed as part of the Private Well Program to Protect Public Health, a Synergy Initiative Round 5 project led by RCAP Solutions. Last year, **~27% of private wells tested during the project's pilot year had contaminants exceeding state health standards and/or suggesting potential health risks**. MassDEP's ongoing PFAS Private Well Program has found that **~5% of households have PFAS exceeding state health standards**. Without uniform private well regulations across the state, countless Massachusetts residents remain at risk of exposure to harmful contaminants through their private well water.

For more information about this project and how to support this important legislation, please click [here](#). Central Massachusetts legislators Senator John Cronin, Senator Anne Gobi, and Senator Michael Moore have already signed on as co-sponsors on the legislation.

The Foundation has provided over \$1 million in funding to this initiative since 2020.



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