

## Hearing for Private Well Bill on World Water Day, March 22



On Tuesday, March 22, which is also World Water Day, the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture will host a hearing on Senate Bill [S.2667](#), *An Act promoting drinking water quality for all*, filed by Senator Jamie Eldridge. This bill was filed as a direct result of the Foundation's Round 5 Synergy Initiative project, the [Private Well Program to Protect Public Health](#), aimed at addressing the lack of statewide regulations ensuring that residents relying on private wells have access to safe drinking water. The House version of the bill, HD.4693, was filed by Representative Dan Sena.

This legislation represents a critical step forward to protect **over half a million Massachusetts residents on private wells** who may not know if their drinking water is safe from harmful contaminants like arsenic, E. coli, nitrates, PFAS, radon, and uranium, which may have short-term and/or long-term health impacts. Led by RCAP Solutions, the Private Well Program to Protect Public Health found that **~27% of wells had contaminants exceeding state health standards and/or suggesting potential health risks** in its 2021 pilot. Currently, the patchwork system of local private well regulations – some of which are outdated or nonexistent while others are very stringent – has resulted in **inequitable access to safe drinking water across the state**. Residents on public water systems benefit from drinking water that is regulated by the state and is routinely monitored for contaminants.

The Foundation is proud to support these efforts to ensure that all Massachusetts residents, regardless of income, where they live, or whether they have access to public water systems or private wells, have access to safe drinking water. We hope you will join us in supporting this legislation.

Information about the hearing and instructions for providing oral and/or written testimony can be found here: <https://malegislature.gov/Events/Hearings/Detail/4234>. Those wishing to provide oral testimony must **pre-register by Sunday, March 20 at 5pm** by completing this form: <https://forms.office.com/g/2pH9CCf2Fh>.

