

Senate Budget Amendment #844 Would Provide Financial Assistance to Low-Income Homeowners at No Additional Cost to the State



The Massachusetts Senate will soon begin considering the nearly 1200 amendments to the Senate Ways and Means FY23 budget, and we urge you to **contact your State Senator to support Amendment #844**, “Private Well Clean Up,” filed by Senator Jamie Eldridge.

Amendment #844 does not request any additional state funding. It would revise the permissible use of the existing MassHousing Septic Repair Loan Program to include private well remediation. If this technical expansion of the language is approved, **low-income homeowners would have access to no- or low-interest loans to help cover the costs of treatment systems for contaminated private wells, which can range from \$1,000 to \$10,000**. Currently, there are very few financial assistance options for low-income private well owners, so many continue drinking contaminated water or avoid testing their drinking water because they cannot afford remediation, if needed.

Please join us in taking action **TODAY** by doing the following:

1. Find your State Senator here:

<https://malegislature.gov/search/findmylegislator>

2. Call or e-mail your State Senator urging support of Amendment #844.
You can use the template below and **add your own personal touch**:

“I am contacting you to ask that you co-sponsor Amendment #844, “Private Well Clean Up,” filed by Senator Eldridge, to assist low-income homeowners with loans to fix contaminated private wells to ensure that they have access to clean drinking water. Private wells exist across the state, yet there are very few resources to help low-income private well owners when their drinking water is contaminated. Contaminants like arsenic, E. coli, PFAS, and uranium can have negative health impacts. Amendment #844 would expand the existing MassHousing Septic Repair Loan Program to include private well remediation at no additional cost to the state at this time. Please support this amendment to help ensure that Massachusetts residents have access to safe drinking water regardless of what their financial resources are.”

For more information about Amendment #844, please see this [one-page fact sheet](#).

This budget amendment is one of the many strategies being utilized by the Private Well Program to Protect Public Health to change a system of inadequate and unequal drinking water protections. The Private Well Program to Protect Public Health is a Round 5 Synergy Initiative project led by RCAP Solutions, and the Foundation has provided over \$1 million in funding to this project since 2020.

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