



The State of New Hampshire  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 8, 2015

The Honorable Sharon Carson, Chair  
Executive Departments and Administration Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 306  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 109-FN, *An act relative to the testing of backflow devices***

Dear Chairman Carson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 109-FN. The department supports this bill as amended by the House because we believe it clarifies the existing statute pertaining to backflow device requirements for residential properties.

The purpose of backflow devices is to prevent a liquid, gas or other substance used at a facility served by a public drinking water system from flowing back into the public water system's distribution pipes. This is particularly important at high hazard facilities where the facilities' piping could contain contaminants that could cause illness or death. It is also important at low hazard facilities where a backflow event could impact the taste or odor of water served to other customers, thereby damaging public confidence in the public water system. To ensure that backflow devices are where they need to be and functioning properly, water systems which serve multiple customers, such as municipal water systems, are required by NH's Safe Drinking Water Act to have cross connection control programs which involve periodic testing of devices at both low and high hazard facilities. This bill clarifies that residential properties do not require testing or to have testable devices installed unless the property has one or more features that could create a hazard such as having a private well, a swimming pool, or an irrigation system connected to the home's plumbing.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Sarah Pillsbury ([Sarah.Pillsbury@des.nh.gov](mailto:Sarah.Pillsbury@des.nh.gov) or 603-271-1168) or me ([Thomas.burack@des.nh.gov](mailto:Thomas.burack@des.nh.gov) or 603-271-3449).

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

cc:

Representative Beaudoin, Representative Ober  
Representative McGuire, Representative O'Connor

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