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HOUSE BILL NO. 1682

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled December 15, 2000

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-176.4 and 32.1-176.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to testing of well water.

Patron—Louderback

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 32.1-176.4 and 32.1-176.5 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 32.1-176.4. Powers and duties of Board and Department; regulations; fees.

A. The Board shall adopt regulations pertaining to the location and construction of private wells in the Commonwealth. The Department shall enforce the provisions of this article and any rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto. However, for private wells located in the Counties of James City, Fairfax, Loudoun, Powhatan, ~~and~~ Prince William, *and Warren* and the City of Suffolk, the governing body of such county or city may, by ordinance, establish standards which are consistent with Board standards pertaining to location and testing of water therefrom and more stringent than those adopted by the Board pertaining to construction and abandonment. However, any county or city granted these additional powers shall not require certification for drillers of monitoring wells and any recovery wells associated with such monitoring wells.

B. A fee of forty dollars shall be charged for filing an application for a private well construction permit with the Department. Funds received in payment of such charges shall be transmitted to the Comptroller for deposit. The funds from the fees shall be credited to a special fund to be appropriated by the General Assembly, as it deems necessary, to the Department for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this title. The Board, in its regulations, shall establish a procedure for the waiver of fees for persons whose incomes are below the federal poverty guidelines established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or when the application is for replacement of a well. If the Department denies the permit for land on which the applicant seeks to construct his principal place of residence, then such fee shall be refunded to the applicant.

From such funds as are appropriated to the Department from the special fund, the Board shall apportion a share to the local or district health departments to be allocated in the same ratios as provided for the operation of such health departments pursuant to § 32.1-31. Such funds shall be transmitted to the local or district health departments on a quarterly basis.

§ 32.1-176.5. Construction permit; local government authority to require analysis of water.

A. Any person intending to construct a private well shall apply to the Department for and receive a permit before proceeding with construction. This permit shall be issued no later than sixty days from application and in accordance with the Board's regulations. In addition, an inspection shall be made after construction to assure that the construction standards are met.

B. The local governing bodies of the Counties of Albemarle, Chesterfield, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, James City, Loudoun, Orange, Powhatan, Prince William, Rappahannock, Stafford, *Warren*, and York and the Cities of Manassas, Manassas Park, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach may by ordinance establish reasonable testing requirements to determine compliance with existing federal or state drinking water quality standards and require that such testing be done prior to the issuance of building permits. Such testing requirements shall apply only to building permit applicants proposing to utilize private ground water wells as their primary potable water source. In developing such an ordinance, the local governing body shall consider (i) the appropriate ground water constituents to be tested using the above standards as guidance; (ii) the reasonable cost of such testing which may be borne by the applicant; and (iii) the availability of certified laboratories to perform such services. However, no such test shall be conducted by Consolidated Laboratories. The applicant shall be notified of the test results with respect to such established standards.

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