



SUPPORT

A. 1103/S. 1854 (Jaffee/Hoylman)

Private Well Testing Act

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports A. 1103/S. 1854 (Jaffee/Hoylman), which establishes the Private Well Testing Act and amends the Environmental Conservation Law, the Public Health Law and the Real Property Law to establish requirements for testing drinking water from privately owned wells, which serve over 1 million homeowners in the state.

While New Yorkers who are served by public water supplies have their drinking water regularly tested for contaminants, residents served by private wells may be drinking contaminated water without knowing it. When similar legislation was enacted in New Jersey, it was discovered that about 25% of the wells contained contaminated water. The bill has several provisions that would widen the ability of homeowners to know if their water is safe to drink.

The Private Well Testing Act would allow the Department of Health to establish standards and enforce regulations for drinking water from privately owned wells, including tests for regulated contaminants. It would also allow the Department of Environmental Conservation to track contaminated privately owned wells. Lastly, it amends the Real Property Law to mandate that when a property that is served by a privately owned well is sold, its water must be tested. Ultimately, the act would create similar stringent standards for drinking water from privately owned sources as ones currently in place for public water sources.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) strongly urges passage of A. 1103/S. 1854.

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