

2015 -- S 0352

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LC000929
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION - DRILLING OF DRINKING WATER
WELLS

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, and Morgan

Date Introduced: February 12, 2015

Referred To: Senate Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 46-13.2-1, 46-13.2-4 and 46-13.2-7 of the General Laws in
2 Chapter 46-13.2 entitled "Drilling of Drinking Water Wells" are hereby amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **46-13.2-1. Definitions.** -- For the purpose of this chapter:

5 (1) "Building official" means the local building official authorized in accordance with §
6 23- 27.3-107 or the state building code commissioner authorized in accordance with § 23-27.3-
7 108.2, as applicable;

8 (2) "Board" means the Rhode Island contractors' registration and licensing board;

9 (3) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, [limited liability](#)
10 [company, joint venture](#), or organization, or any combination thereof;

11 (4) "Well" means an artificial sanitary excavation or opening in the ground, by which
12 groundwater can be obtained or through which it flows under natural pressure or is artificially
13 withdrawn; and for the purposes of this chapter, excepting section 46-13.2-3(c), attached as an
14 appurtenance to a building or structure.

15 (5) "Well drilling contractor" means a person who [is licensed by the contractors'](#)
16 [registration and licensing board under chapter 65.2 of title 5, and who](#) engages in well drilling,
17 including the installation, [alteration, removal, or repair of water supply systems or](#) pumps as
18 provided herein;

1 (6) "Well drilling" means and includes the industry, procedure and all operations
2 engaged in by any person, full-time or part-time, for compensation or otherwise, to obtain water
3 from a well or wells by drilling, or other methods, for any purpose or use, [or as defined in § 5-](#)
4 [65.2-1](#).

5 (7) "Appurtenance" means and includes [wells, pumps, filtration or treatment systems, or](#)
6 [other devices installed therewith.](#) ~~the installation, alteration or repair of wells connected to a~~
7 ~~structure.~~

8 ~~**46-13.2-4. Registration and licensing of well drilling contractors and pump**~~
9 ~~**installers. -- Registration and licensing of well drilling contractors, water filtration system**~~
10 ~~**contractors and pump installers.**~~ -- (a) No person shall install a well [water filtration or](#)
11 [treatment system](#), or a pump within a water well unless registered or licensed with the proper
12 authorities in accordance with this chapter, chapter 5-65 and chapter 5-65.2 of the Rhode Island
13 general laws. Well drilling contractors, [pump installers, and water filtration/treatment system](#)
14 [contractors](#) are subject to the jurisdiction of the contractors' registration and licensing board
15 including the [relevant](#) registration [and licensing](#) procedures of the board authorized by ~~chapter 5-~~
16 ~~65~~ [and chapters 65 and 65.2 of title 5](#), and in effect at the time of passage of this act.

17 (b) A municipality engaged in well drilling shall be exempt from the registration or
18 license provisions of this chapter if the drilling is done by regular employees of, and with
19 equipment owned by, the municipality, and the work is on wells intended for use by the
20 municipality.

21 (c) This chapter shall not restrict a plumber or electrician from engaging in the trade for
22 which he or she has been licensed.

23 **46-13.2-7. Well constructed for farming or private use.** -- A landowner may construct
24 his or her own well to provide water for the consumption by himself or herself, his or her family,
25 pets, livestock, or for farming of his or her land where the water obtained shall not be intended for
26 use by the general public or in any residence other than the landowner's, and the landowner shall
27 not be required to be registered [or licensed](#) under § 46-13.2-4 [or chapter 65.2 of title 5](#), but must
28 submit a well installation report as required by § 46-13.2-5 and comply with all regulations and
29 codes of construction adopted under this chapter and section 23-27.3 and comply as applicable
30 with requirements of § 23-1-5.3.

31 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This act would add pump installers, and/or water filtration/treatment system contractors
- 2 to the regulations relating to the drilling of drinking water wells.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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