



## SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

### Senate Bill 656 Printer's No. 846

Prime Sponsor: Fontana  
Committee: Local Government

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#### **SYNOPSIS:**

Allows municipalities and municipal authorities to make public funds available to repair or replace contaminated private water lines when they pose a threat to public health or safety.

#### **SUMMARY:**

Senate Bill 656 amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) to permit municipalities and municipal authorities to use public funds for water distribution systems that may include private water laterals.

Amendment A01988 extends this authorization to private sewer laterals. Currently, Senate Bill 656 allows for the expenditure of public money for private lateral sewer lines, as well as sewer systems under Section 5607 (b)(2) of Title 53 but omits further references to sewer laterals and systems elsewhere in the bill.

Senate Bill 656, as well as Amendment A01988, allows a municipality or municipal authority to use public funds for both private water laterals and private sewer laterals, as well as for the construction and maintenance of water or sanitary sewer pump stations, public water distribution systems, public sewer collection systems, or similar general construction services. Also, authority employees could be used for the maintenance and repair of the laterals.

Senate Bill 656 clarifies that a municipality or municipal authority that has performed a replacement or remediation of private water laterals shall not be deemed to be the owner of the private water laterals or obligated to perform any other duties unless the authority chooses to do so. Amendment A01988 includes private sewer laterals within this clarifying statement.

A municipality or municipal authority would be required to consider available resources – funds, equipment, personnel, facilities, and the other demands of the authority that would require these resources – before deciding to use public funds for the replacement or remediation of private water laterals. Again, Amendment A01988 requires the same considerations for private sewer laterals.

Amendment A01988 first strikes the definition of “Private lateral water line” and replaces it with the definition of “Private water lateral” while adding a definition for “Private sewer lateral”.

Numerous technical changes are also included in the amendment to change several semicolons to periods.

Effective Date: 60 Days

**BILL HISTORY:**

Referred to Senate Local Government 5/15/17

Prepared by: Marsicano 6/16/2017