National Environmental Health Association

WasteWater Enacted Legislation 2026

120 bills were introduced in 2026; 30 were enacted in Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington.

Arizona HB 2096, Chap. No 80 – Cesspool Remediation

This bill authorizes Arizona counties to apply for and receive financial assistance, including forgivable principal, from the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) for the remediation, closure, or replacement of cesspools that pose a risk to surface water, groundwater, or public health. The bill amends statutes governing WIFA's powers, permitted uses of the clean water and drinking water revolving funds, and annual reporting requirements. The legislature finds that thousands of legacy cesspools remain in operation and pose a direct threat to public health and groundwater quality.

Connecticut HB 5518, P.A. No. 26-142 Subsurface Sewage Enforcement Officers

This bill addresses recommendations from the Department of Public Health concerning subsurface sewage enforcement officers, water operator apprentices, and various revisions to Connecticut's environmental health and drinking water statutes. It creates a new certification program for subsurface sewage enforcement officers and establishes an apprenticeship pathway for water operators.

Florida HB 589, Chap. No. 2026-62 – Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System Permits

This bill addresses onsite sewage treatment and disposal system permits in Florida. The bill modifies permit requirements for single-family residences, liability provisions for property owners, and the applicability of new departmental rules. The bill also makes conforming changes to cross-references in related statutes.

Hawaii SB 2101, Act No. 2026-173 – Solid and Organic Waste Statewide Goals

This bill addresses solid waste stream and organic waste diversion goals in Hawaii. It updates statewide reduction targets under Hawaii Revised Statutes and modifies the requirements for county integrated solid waste management plans to include organic waste diversion components.

Idaho HB 555, Chap. No. 7 – Solid Waste Facilities

This bill relates to solid waste facilities in Idaho and proposes extensive amendments to the Idaho Solid Waste Facilities Act. The bill transfers regulatory responsibilities from health districts to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and establishes new application processes, fee structures, and enforcement mechanisms for solid waste disposal facilities. The bill addresses standards for facility design, operation, closure, post-closure care, and financial assurance requirements.

Maryland HB 925 Chap. No. 330 – Sewage Sludge

This bill establishes restrictions on the land application of sewage sludge containing certain concentrations of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), specifically PFOA and PFOS. The bill authorizes commingling of sewage sludge to reduce PFAS concentrations and establishes monitoring protocols for these substances. It also authorizes the establishment of pretreatment standards for industrial users and requires source tracking studies and mitigation plans for sewage sludge generators with elevated PFAS levels.

Mississippi HB 1632 - Public Wastewater System Infrastructure Sustainability

This bill creates accountability frameworks for community public wastewater and drinking water systems in Mississippi through letter grade rating schedules. The bill establishes the "Community Public Wastewater System Infrastructure Sustainability Act" and the "Community Drinking Water Infrastructure Sustainability Act" to promote infrastructure sustainability and public health protection. The bill also brings forward various existing code sections for possible amendment and modifies procedures for utility district dissolution.

Missouri SB 914 – Sewage Regulation

This bill relates to sewage regulation and modifies standards for on-site sewage disposal systems. The bill changes testing requirements from percolation tests to soil morphology evaluations and implements registration programs for wastewater treatment professionals. The bill also modifies permit application requirements and fee structures for on-site sewage disposal system construction.

Nebraska LB 759 – Integrated Solid Waste Management

This bill addresses environmental protection and water regulation in Nebraska, making changes to fees, fund allocations, and regulatory responsibilities across multiple environmental programs. The bill updates references to harmonize with the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment and transfers certain regulatory authority from state to local governments. The legislation covers areas including solid waste management,



water well regulation, livestock waste control, hazardous waste management, and environmental safety programs.

Rhode Island HB 5844 P.L. No. 2025-052; SB 650 P.L. No. 2025-051 - Quarterly Testing of Water Pollutants

Requires persons seeking to apply biosolids to lands to test the biosolids for PFAS contaminants on a quarterly basis and report those findings to the department of environmental management; authorizes the director to reject applications seeking distribution of biosolids to lands for environmental threat or risk to public health, safety, or welfare.

Tennessee HB 803, Chap. No. 876 – Water and Wastewater Operators

This bill addresses utilities and wastewater treatment systems in Tennessee. It establishes procedures for engineering plan approvals and extensions, creates requirements for decentralized wastewater treatment systems using land application, and sets up processes for developers to transfer treatment works ownership to utilities. The bill also modifies permit issuance criteria for applicants not in substantial compliance with existing orders.

Tennessee HB 2355, Chap. No. 763 – Sewage

This bill addresses unlawful disposal of waste in Tennessee. It specifically targets persons engaged in the business of removing accumulated wastes from subsurface sewage disposal systems who unlawfully dispose of sewage, effluent, or other waste. The bill modifies penalties and establishes a progressive permit suspension and revocation system for violations by these regulated businesses.

Tennessee SB 2057, Chap. No. 1113 – Sewage

Clarifies that a utility system providing wastewater service must provide a connection to the owner of real property for wastewater service when the utility system has an existing gravity sewer line located adjacent to the owner's property, not just where the utility system has an existing gravity sewer line on such property.

Virginia HB 1072, Chap. No. 933 – Land Application of Sewage Sludge

This bill amends Virginia Code Section 62.1-44.19:3 relating to local authority to test and monitor the land application of sewage sludge within political boundaries. The bill addresses regulations for sewage sludge land application, including permit requirements, treatment standards, monitoring procedures, and local government oversight authority. The legislation establishes comprehensive requirements for the safe land application, marketing, and distribution of sewage sludge.

Virginia HB 1178 SB 401, Chaps No. 267 & 268 – Authorized Septic System Inspectors

This bill amends Virginia Code provisions relating to authorized septic system inspectors, their scope of services and requirements. The bill modifies definitions related to septic system inspections and updates the requirements for authorized septic system inspectors and minimum requirements for performance of septic system inspections. The bill addresses qualifications for inspectors, inspection procedures, reporting requirements, and limitations on inspector activities.

Virginia HB 1443, Chap. No. 853 - Owners of Sewage Treatment Works

This bill addresses the testing and regulation of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in sewage sludge intended for land application, marketing, or distribution in Virginia. The bill establishes mandatory PFAS testing requirements and concentration-based management tiers that restrict or prohibit sewage sludge application based on PFOS and PFOA levels. The bill also requires notification to landowners about PFAS concentrations and directs the Department of Environmental Quality to study approaches for reducing PFAS occurrence in sewage sludge.

Virginia SB 453 Chap. No. 946 – Intentional Discharge of Untreated Sewage

This bill amends Virginia law governing the regulation of sewage systems and establishes civil penalties for intentional discharge of untreated sewage. The bill addresses the powers and duties of the Board of Health regarding onsite sewage systems, alternative discharging sewage systems, permits, inspections, and enforcement. The bill also covers fees, maintenance requirements, and civil penalty procedures for various violations.

Washington HB 1670, Chap. No. 315 - Transparency Regarding Sewage Containing Spills

Increases transparency regarding sewage containing spills; provides that the Department of Ecology must develop and publish a public website that includes, but is not limited to, notices of the locations where sewage spills occur that are reported to the department under individual water quality permits for discharges that contain sewage; provides that the notice on the departments website must include the specified information, including, among other things, the estimated volume or rate of discharge.

Washington SB 6291, Chap. No. 210 - On Site Wastewater Treatment System Inspections

This bill relates to on-site wastewater treatment system inspections and amends RCW 70A.105.110. The bill addresses qualifications for individuals who conduct inspections of on-site wastewater treatment systems and requirements for supervision of noncertified

individuals. The bill also incorporates references to definitions established in RCW 18.210.010.