

11 An act relating to the use of smart meters by public water systems

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 1671 is amended to read:

14 § 1671. DEFINITIONS

15 As used in this chapter:

16 (1) “Drinking water” means noncarbonated water that is intended for

17 human consumption or other consumer uses whether provided by a public

18 water system or in a container, bottle, or package, or in bulk, including water

19 used for production of ice, foodstuffs, or other products designed for human

20 consumption.

10 (5)(A) "Public water system" means any system, or combination of
11 systems owned or controlled by a person, that provides drinking water through
12 pipes or other constructed conveyances to the public and that:

3 * * *

12 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 1675 is amended to read:

13 § 1675. PERMITS; CONDITIONS; DURATION; SUSPENSION OF
14 REVOCATION

15 (a) Authority to issue, renew, or deny permit. The Secretary may issue,
16 renew, or deny a public water system permit required by this chapter. As part
17 of this authority, the Secretary may issue general operating permits for the
18 operation of transient noncommunity water systems.

19 * * *

20 (j) Smart meters; customer rights. If a public water system requires a user
21 of the system to install a meter to measure usage, the public water system may

1 install a wireless smart meter on a user's premises, provided that the public
2 water system:

3 (1) provides prior written notice to the user indicating that the meter will
4 use radio or other wireless means for two-way communication between the
5 meter and the public water system and informing the user of the user's rights
6 under subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection;

7 (2) allows a user to choose not to have a wireless smart meter installed,
8 provided that the public water system may charge the user for the cost of the
9 alternative meter and any additional service charge required for the public
10 water system to operate the alternative meter; and

11 (3) allows a user to require removal of a previously installed wireless
12 smart meter for any reason and at an agreed-upon time, without incurring any
13 charge for such removal.

14 (k) Cybersecurity measures. As a condition of a public water system
15 issued under this chapter, the Secretary shall require a public water system
16 using smart meters to demonstrate that the public water system has
17 implemented and is administering cybersecurity measures to protect the
18 computer infrastructure and data of the public water system from unauthorized
19 access that could result in theft, damage, or disruption of service.

1 Sec. 3. DEVELOPMENT OF CYBERSECURITY MEASURES FOR
2 PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS; IMPLEMENTATION

3 (a) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall develop cybersecurity
4 measures that all public water systems permitted under 10 V.S.A. chapter 56
5 shall implement if the public water system is using smart meters to monitor
6 customer usage. At a minimum, the cybersecurity measures shall be consistent
7 with the cybersecurity actions recommended by the Vermont Rural Water
8 Association.

9 (b) A public water system permitted under 10 V.S.A. chapter 56 shall have
10 until July 1, 2027, to demonstrate to the Secretary of Natural Resources
11 compliance with the cybersecurity requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 1675(k).

12 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on passage.