



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 2025

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Governor Pritzker Signs Hydrant Bill into Law: Public Act 104-0079

Campton Hills, IL – The Hydrant Bill, Senate Bill 224, has been signed into law by Governor Pritzker, becoming Public Act 104-0079. This landmark legislation addresses critical water quality concerns and streamlines the permitting process for fire hydrants in Illinois.

In 2019, the Metro West Council of Government (Metro West) received complaints about work stoppages on various water main construction projects due to hydrant placement issues. Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI), serving as an advisor to Metro West, investigated the matter and found that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) was interpreting the plumbing code to include fire hydrants as “water services,” leading to significant project delays and increased costs.

To resolve these issues, EEI proposed a two-part solution: requiring the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to include fire hydrants in their water distribution system construction permits and working with both IEPA and IDPH to address water quality concerns. This collaborative effort led to the formation of an ad hoc Water Distribution System Water Quality Committee, which included representatives from IEPA, IDPH, the State Fire Marshal’s Office, ISAWWA, Metro West, and EEI.

Over a four-year period, the committee diligently worked to resolve language concerns and devise strategies to address water quality issues associated with fire hydrant leads and water distribution system dead ends. The committee's efforts culminated in proposed changes to the design guidelines for fire hydrant installation in Title 35: Environmental Protection, Subtitle F: Public Water Supplies, Part 604 Design, Operation, and Maintenance Criteria, Sections 604.1425 and 604.1415.

Senator DeWitte and Representative Kiecher provided extraordinary support throughout the process, facilitating meetings with IEPA and offering steadfast support for the bill. The ISAWWA and Metro West lobbyists also played a crucial role in navigating the legislative process.

With the Hydrant Bill now law, the IEPA permit will include fire hydrants, and new guidelines for hydrant installation are expected in the future. Engineers are encouraged to follow current Title 35 guidelines and prioritize eliminating dead ends and long hydrant leads to ensure better water distribution system water quality.

The successful passage of the Hydrant Bill is a testament to the collaborative efforts of state agencies, legislators, and industry stakeholders. The revisions to the ACT and Title 35 will help avoid future delays and improve water quality, benefiting municipalities, developers, and the public.

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ABOUT METRO WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT

Metro West Council of Government is a council of municipalities serving a population of more than 750,000 in Kane, DeKalb and Kendall Counties of Illinois. The non-profit organization was founded in November 2004 and is supported by member dues. It serves its members and the region by:

- Promoting excellence in local government.
- Evaluating the impact of pending state and federal legislation on municipalities.
- Articulating municipal concerns and advocating municipal positions on local, regional, state and national issues.
- Fostering intergovernmental communication and cooperation.
- Providing research, technical assistance, training and leadership development opportunities to members.
- Addressing growth, transportation and water conservation issues affecting the region.
- Serving as a strong advocate for municipalities.