



October 15, 2024

Members of Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations
Members of Joint Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding
Members of Joint Standing Committee on Human Services
Members of Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Development
Members of Joint Standing Committee on Public Health
Members of Joint Standing Committee on Public Safety and Security

Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Public Act 23-137 – Section 16 Concerning Group Home Fire Safety Funding

Dear Joint Standing Committee Members:

This report addresses Section 16 of PA 23-137, which requires that the Department of Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, shall, within available appropriations, establish a pool of funds not later than January 1, 2025, to allow private providers to apply for financial assistance to comply with fire regulation requirements that any group home be equipped with a five-thousand gallon water tank.

The Public Act also requires that the Commissioner of Administrative Services submit a report – this report – on the level of need for the funds to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, finance, public safety, human services, planning and development and public health.

The Department of Administrative Services has reviewed the applicable Connecticut General Statutes, Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and the Connecticut fire safety and fire prevention codes and found no requirement for a 5,000-gallon water tank to supply water to a residential group home.

If a fire sprinkler system is required in a group home, it would be required to be supplied by a reliable water supply – typically a public water supply - to ensure the required pressure and duration of water. In theory a tank from which water is pumped under pressure could be an acceptable alternative, but with a commercial sprinkler system a 5,000-gallon water tank would likely be insufficient. For some smaller group homes, which are permitted to utilize a residential sprinkler system, dependent on site conditions it may be possible that a 5,000-gallon water tank and pump would be viable in the absence of a reliable public water supply for these smaller premises.

The Department of Administrative Services reviewed this subject with the Department of Developmental Services and was not able to identify a group home that would currently require a 5,000-gallon water tank to supply its fire sprinkler system.

This report, and any additional information related to it, will be available on the agency's website [Special Reports \(ct.gov\)](#). Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle H. Gilman".

Michelle H. Gilman
Commissioner of Administrative Services

CC:

Jeffrey R. Beckham, Secretary, Office of Policy and Management

Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner, Department of Developmental Services

Ronnell A. Higgins, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection