

Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure

2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER: H391

TITLE: An Act relative to regulating the septic industry

SPONSOR(S): Howitt, Stephen

HEARING DATE: April 14, 2025

REPORTING DEADLINE: June 13, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY

(2019-2020): H805 - Bill reported favorably by Committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means.

(2021-2022): H4063 - Bill reported favorably by Committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means.

(2023-2024): H330 - Bill reported favorably by Committee and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means.

CURRENT LAW

Section 13A of Chapter 21A of the Massachusetts General Laws governs system inspectors of on-site sewage disposal systems and prohibits any inspector from recommending to a property owner any specific disposal system installer, including themselves. Each local board of health shall prepare and make available for inspectors to provide a list of installers (which may contain but may not distinguish such inspector). Violations shall be punished by an up to \$1,000 fine.

SUMMARY

This legislation seeks to require that a system inspector who performs an onsite inspection of a sewage disposal system take photographs as part of the inspection process. Fines for violations of this section shall include \$1,000 for first offense, \$2,000 and 3-month license suspension for second offense, and license revocation for third offense. Systems inspections shall be notified by the department of environmental protection of these requirements.