



To: Well Contractors

From: Guilford County Division of Environmental Health - Water Quality Section

Date: July 31, 2026

Subject: Session Law 2026-32 (HB 376)

On July 2, 2026, N.C. Session Law 2026-32 (HB 376) was signed into law. HB 376 established the State's Private Drinking Water Well Program as the statewide permitting and inspection program and prohibits local health departments from adopting or enforcing local permitting rules for **private drinking water wells**.

Pursuant to N.C. Session Law 2026-32, Section 8.(d), effective July 2, 2026, Guilford County's private drinking water well rules were repealed. This legislation only affects Guilford County's private drinking water well rules and does not affect local rules governing non-potable wells.

Our office immediately took action by:

- Amending any private drinking water well permits that were unissued to reflect a 5-year expiration date
- Training staff on the state standards for private drinking water wells
- Reviewing any well permits to ensure proper rule citation based on well type
- Adjusting the variance process to conform to state requirements

Our staff is already authorized to enforce state private drinking water well rules and is ready to provide assistance should questions arise. As we move forward under both state and local rules our intention is to revise our current local well rules. Our continued priority will be the protection of our groundwater resources.

We anticipate future opportunities for stakeholder engagement as we continue the process of revising our local rules.

Thank you,

Paula Cox REHS, MSEH
Environmental Health Director
Guilford County HHS Agency, Department of Public Health