

Governor's Office of Management and Budget

Alexis Sturm

Director



Regulatory Sunset Act Study of the

Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor's License Act

May 8, 2026

**To the Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois**

Governor Pritzker:

As required by Section 5 of the Regulatory Sunset Act (5 ILCS 80/1 et seq.), GOMB facilitated a study with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the agency responsible for oversight of the Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor's License Act (225 ILCS 345/) (the Act), which is scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2027. This study provides justification for the recommendation to continue this Act.

GOMB's examination of this Act was conducted considering the factors set out in Sections 6 and 7 of the Regulatory Sunset Act. The following report outlines the work of GOMB's study and details the criteria and data utilized to arrive at the above recommendation.

Respectfully,

Alexis Sturm
Director
Governor's Office of Management and Budget

GOMB Regulatory Sunset Act Report: Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor's License Act

The State of Illinois, acting through the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH or the Department), protects public health by requiring the proper construction, operation and decommissioning of water wells. Water wells are permitted and inspected by the Department or its designated agents and are installed by licensed contractors. There have been numerous instances in Illinois and other states of persons falling into improperly constructed wells causing injury and death. Wildlife and chemicals from farming and industry further endanger the quality of water due to an improperly constructed well. The availability of a safe and sanitary water supply is imperative to the welfare of Illinois residents. The regulations regarding the licensing of individuals to install water wells are designed to prevent individuals without proper knowledge and training from installing faulty water wells leading to the contamination of the aquifers supplying water to all residents of Illinois.

1. License Count and Fee Structure (5 ILCS 80/6(1) and (3))

As of July 31, 2025, IDPH states that there are 109 currently active licenses for water well and pump installation contractors in Illinois. See the following table for the number of licenses issued by IDPH under this act in the fiscal years indicated:

License, Credential, Certification Type*	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Water Well Contractor					95
Water Well Pump Installation Contractor					97
Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor					109

* The Department's database is not able to provide previous years licensing information.

Water well and pump installation contractors have the following licensure fee structure:

License, Credential, or Certification Type	Fee Amount	Online Payment Option
Water Well Contractor Examination Fee	\$50	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water Well Pump Installation Contractor Examination Fee	\$50	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor Examination Fee	\$80	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water Well Contractor or Pump Installation Contractor Annual Renewal Fee	\$25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor Annual Renewal Fee	\$35	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water Well Contractor or Pump Installation Contractor Reinstatement Fee (Lapsed < 3 years)	\$10 + all lapsed renewal fees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water Well Contractor or Pump Installation Contractor Restoration Fee (Lapsed > 3 years)	\$150	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor Restoration Fee (Lapsed > 3 years)	\$175	<input type="checkbox"/>

years)		
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2. Obtaining Certification as a Water Well Contractor and Water Well Pump Installation Contractor in Illinois (5 ILCS 80/6(11))

The process to obtain a license is outlined in the Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor's License Code 77IAC915. The applicant submits an application which communicates age and experience. Once approved, they are eligible to sit for the examination. Examinations are offered twice a year. The testing location is Springfield, Illinois. The examinations are administered by IDPH and the Water Well and Pump Installation Contractors Licensing Board (Water Well Advisory Board).

After passing the examination, the applicant is qualified for licensure. The standards for testing and licensure are established by law and code.

3. Equity Concerns (5 ILCS 80/6(10), (12) and (13))

IDPH states that the demographic data is collected on applications include name, age, address, place of birth and employment history. The application also includes the Illinois-required child support statement certifications. There are no formal educational requirements. Training and experience are obtained through working under a licensed individual. Trainees are typically on the payroll of the company they are working for. This profession tends to be generational. Businesses are handed down to sons and daughters of the business owner.

Equity issues may have an impact on individuals seeking to become licensed in the State of Illinois. These issues include financial challenges such as the cost to obtain licensure and the failure to complete licensure due to access to training, education, and geographic location of training and testing sites.

Persons who speak English as a second language may also have difficulty with the licensure process. The examination is only offered in English. 225 ILCS 345/15.1 addresses considerations when an applicant has been convicted of any felony or a misdemeanor

4. Agency recommendations to change the statute (5 ILCS 80/6(4) and (9))

IDPH does not have amendatory recommendations for this Act. The Department is continuously monitoring the impact the current statutory language has on practitioners, while closely observing what changes can be made to better benefit the public. The Department acknowledges the need for Illinois to have enough qualified, licensed well drillers to fulfill the public demand for access to private water wells.

The Administrative Rules promulgated under the act were updated in 2022 (Title 77 Part 915).

5. Agency efforts to comply with enabling laws (5 ILCS 80/6(3), (4) and (5))

IDPFR states that, at present, there are no compliance issues related to the administration of this Act. Licensed individuals ensure that proper systems and methods are employed to protect underground water resources of Illinois. The Department continues to evaluate potential compliance issues associated with the licensing of water well contractors and water well pump installers.

225 ILCS 345/6 creates the Water Well and Pump Installation Contractors Licensing Board (Water Well Advisory Board). The advisory board consists of 6 members. Their roles and authority are outlined in the Act and include preparing subject matter for continuing education, promulgating rules, holding examinations, hearings and grading tests. The appointment process is also outlined in the act. The board meets three times per year.

6. Recent bills introduced by the General Assembly (5 ILCS 80/6(9))

According to IDPH, there have been no statutory changes recently introduced by the General Assembly.

7. Stakeholder Feedback and Protocols for Water Well and Pump Installation Contractor's Licensure (5 ILCS 80/6(5), (6), (7), (8), (10) and 5 ILCS 80/7)

The Department solicits feedback from individuals regulated under this Act in numerous ways. There is regular communication with Advisory Board Members, Industry Associations and Local Health Departments via email, telephone, Webex meetings and in-person public presentations.

8. Public Outreach (5 ILCS 80/6(5), (6), (7) and (8) and 5 ILCS 80/7)

IDPH provides the Department's website to distribute guidance to the public and the regulated community related to water well licensing requirements. Department staff provide in-person public presentations, Webex online meetings and open office hours to enable stakeholders to provide input on the program. The Department considers any public comment received when updating statutes, regulations, interpretations and guidelines. The Department does not solicit public comment on the existing well contractor licensing program.

9. Industry Standards (5 ILCS 80/6(11) and (12))

IDPH works routinely with the Water Well Advisory Board to identify and address any industry problems or deficiencies. Concerns brought to the Department have been infrequent and usually relate to licensure exam questions and availability of continuing education courses.

IDPH states that the Illinois personal qualifications required for this profession are in line with industry standards.

There are no uniform national standards for water well contractors across the United States. Each state has its own regulations and licensing requirements. Many states base their standards on recommendations from organizations like the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). Most midwestern states are similar in requiring two years of experience under the supervision of a licensed contractor and passing an examination prior to being eligible to obtain a license.

10. Public Complaint Resolution (5 ILCS 80/6(3), (7), (8) and (10) and 5 ILCS 80/7)

IDPH does not track the number of complaints received from members of the profession. The Water Well Program does address any complaints received regarding licensure issues. Complaints against the regulated industry are addressed at the local health department level. The Department does not require partner agencies to report the number of complaints received.

The Water Well Program Manager is responsible for resolving complaints regarding regulation of the

Act. The Water Well Program addresses any complaints received within 4-6 weeks.

11. Disciplinary Action (5 ILCS 80/6(14))

The Water Well Program Policy #2 Enforcement Action Administrator and Illinois State's Attorney provide procedures for disciplinary actions available. Examples of disciplinary actions include corrective action notices, formal enforcement conference, administrative hearing or State's Attorney Action to issue fines, suspend or revoke licensure. The Department has no knowledge of past occurrences of contractual disputes, fraud or other disputes between providers and consumers.

12. Conclusion

The Act governs the licensure of water well contractors and water well pump installation contractors in the State of Illinois. The absence of licensing criteria for these contractors would pose a significant and direct harm to the health, safety, and welfare of the public and specifically the State's water. Licensing of water well and pump installation contractors ensures that these individuals possess the basic knowledge to construct wells in a manner that prevents possible surface contamination to the aquifer below. Improperly installed water wells, pumps and related equipment can endanger the public health and ground water resources of the State of Illinois. The provisions within the Act and the Rules have been modeled with the intent of ensuring the public's health, safety, and welfare are the principal focus. The promulgated provisions of the Act and the Rules mitigate risk by establishing a basis for determining whether an applicant for licensure is fit to practice in Illinois.

Fees collected for licensure are minimal. Licensing ensures a level playing field within the industry and that qualified individuals are meeting the needs of the public while protecting the common water resources of the State.

Based on the factors in 5 ILCS 80/6 and the additional criteria in 5 ILCS 80/7, GOMB finds that the Act should be recommended for continuation. The record should expressly state that the public protection benefits of regulation outweigh the regulatory costs and that no less restrictive alternative would adequately address the significant and discernible harms identified in this report.

The Act should be continued to promote and enhance the safety and welfare of the public, without burdening licensees or commerce.