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## DIGEST

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HB 995 Reengrossed

2016 Regular Session

Jones

**Abstract:** Increases the safe drinking water administration fee paid by consumers of community water systems and dedicates the proceeds of the fee.

Present law requires the Dept. of Health and Hospitals (DHH) to perform all inspections, tests, or procedures on public water supplies authorized by the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act at no cost to any municipality, parish governing authority, or any public or privately owned water system except as provided in present law.

Present law authorizes DHH to charge an annual fee of \$3.20 per metered connection or account for community systems to be collected from each consumer by the community system provider and remitted to the department, minus 32¢ per metered connection or account to be retained by the community system provider for administrative costs for the collection of the fee.

Proposed law increases the fee to \$12, which is to be collected in monthly installments, and authorizes each community system provider to retain 60¢.

Proposed law requires the fees to be remitted to DHH in quarterly installments and to be used for the following purposes:

- (1) To comply with the provisions of R.S. 40:5.6 and the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.
- (2) To offset the annual costs of the La. Rural Water Association in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.
- (3) To fund up to 40 additional sanitarian positions within DHH based upon the number of sanitarian positions funded on July 1, 2016.

Proposed law officially designates the fee as the "Safe Drinking Water Fee".

(Amends R.S. 40:31.33(A)(1); Adds R.S. 40:31.33(C) and (D))

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Dedicate the proceeds of the fee to certain uses.
2. Designate the fee as the "Safe Drinking Water Fee".
3. Make technical changes.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Require the fee to be collected in monthly installments.
2. Require the collected fees to be remitted to DHH in quarterly payments.