

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST**ACT 605 (HB 995)****2016 Regular Session****Jones**

Existing 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 prior law.

Prior law authorized 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.

New law increases the fee to \$12, which is to be collected in not less than quarterly installments, and authorizes each community system provider to retain 5%.

New 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 existing law 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.

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

Effective January 1, 2017.

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