
DIGEST

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HB 481 Original

2021 Regular Session

Willard

Abstract: Provides relative to testing for certain contaminants in drinking water, for notices concerning drinking water to be issued in certain instances, and for other functions pertaining to drinking water safety.

Proposed law requires that for every public water system test at a high-risk Tier 1 site under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water regulations known as the Lead and Copper Rule (40 C.F.R. 141.80 et seq.), the public water system shall also perform an iron test at that site.

Proposed law stipulates that if a public water system's most recent source water test does not find an exceedance of a secondary iron standard, and an iron test at a high-risk Tier 1 site finds an exceedance of the maximum contaminant level for iron established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Secondary Standards for drinking water (40 C.F.R. 143.1 et seq.), then the public water system shall do all of the following:

- (1) Within one month of identification of system non-compliance with secondary iron standard, perform a follow-up public water supply test at the taps of the previously sampled high-risk Tier 1 sites for residual chlorine, total coliform, and E. coli.
- (2) Develop and submit a proposed corrosion control plan consistent with the standards of the Lead and Copper Rule to the office of public health of the La. Department of Health for approval within six months of the test performed pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law requires that for each test performed in accordance with proposed law or the federal Lead and Copper Rule, the public water system shall:

- (1) Provide a written notice to homeowners who perform the sampling which features instructions and information specified in proposed law.
- (2) Abide by the following requirements:
 - (a) The public water system shall not invalidate any sample after the sample has been reported to the state.
 - (b) The public water system shall not provide any instruction to the homeowner that contravenes the mandated notice provision set forth in proposed law, and shall not provide any instruction designed to avoid finding iron, lead, or copper exceedances.

- (c) The public water system shall not revalidate any sample that was previously invalidated.

Proposed law provides that, for its purposes, "lead service line" means a service line made of lead or service line connected to a lead pigtail, lead gooseneck, or other lead fitting. Provides that for each full or partial lead service line replacement that includes either galvanized piping or lead piping, the public water system shall hand-deliver or mail a notice prior to the replacement to every residence down-pipe of the replacement. Requires that the notice be provided at least two weeks prior to commencement of the service line replacement and include information specified in proposed law.

Proposed law provides that monies collected through fines levied against a public water system for noncompliance with any provision of proposed law shall be deposited into the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund established by present law (R.S. 40:2824).

With respect to federal funding that may be provided to the state's Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund through federal law known as the "LIFT America Act of 2021", proposed law requires the La. Department of Health to do all of the following:

- (1) Assist public water systems in disadvantaged communities, as defined in present law (R.S. 40:2822), in the application process for grants and loans financed with such funding.
- (2) Inform public water systems with Lead and Copper Rule violations of the availability of grants and loans financed with such funding.

(Adds R.S. 40:5.6(C)-(F) and 2827)