## 2025 Regular Session

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 54

## BY REPRESENTATIVE DESHOTEL

# WATER/DRINKING WATER: Urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Health to review and revise its regulations regarding minimum chlorine concentration levels in public water systems

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to conduct a comprehensive review
3	to assess the health and environmental impacts of chlorine levels in public water
4	systems.
5	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health currently mandates that
6	administrators of public water systems in the state add elevated levels of disinfectants, such
7	as chlorine, to drinking water supplies resulting in the formation of potentially harmful
8	chemical byproducts; and
9	WHEREAS, in 2013, in response to public concern about harmful microorganisms
10	in drinking water, the Louisiana Department of Health issued an emergency rule increasing
11	the minimum required chlorine concentration in public water systems to 0.5 parts per
12	million, a level five times higher than the previous legal minimum and more than twice the
13	concentration recommended by the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and
14	WHEREAS, despite the emergency nature of this rule, the Louisiana Department of
15	Health has not revised or reduced the elevated chlorine requirement in over a decade; and
16	WHEREAS, the long-term health impacts of elevated chlorine levels in public water
17	systems remain insufficiently studied, but emerging scientific research suggests that
18	excessive chlorine can contribute to the formation of carcinogenic byproducts known as
19	trihalomethanes (THMs); and

1	WHEREAS, THMs are produced when chlorine interacts with naturally occurring
2	organic matter during the water disinfection process; and
3	WHEREAS, epidemiological studies have linked prolonged exposure to THMs with
4	an increased risk of certain cancers, including bladder cancer; and
5	WHEREAS, the increased use of chlorine, intended to meet regulatory compliance,
6	has resulted in higher concentrations of THMs, which may pose long-term health risks to
7	Louisiana residents; and
8	WHEREAS, in order to meet the statewide minimum chlorine requirement, local
9	water authorities are often forced to increase chlorine levels system-wide, leading to greater
10	THM formation and compounding the potential health hazards; and
11	WHEREAS, in addition to public health concerns, the elevated chlorine requirements
12	place a significant financial burden on small and under-resourced local water systems, many
13	of which already face infrastructure and funding challenges.
14	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15	urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to review and revise its regulations
16	regarding minimum chlorine concentration levels in public water systems with the goal of
17	aligning those requirements with current scientific evidence and federal recommendations.
18	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge
19	and request the Louisiana Department of Health to consult with independent scientists,
20	environmental health experts, and local water authorities in developing updated disinfection
21	guidelines that maintain microbial safety while minimizing adverse health and economic
22	impacts.
23	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
24	governor, surgeon general of this state, and secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Urges and requests the La. Dept. of Health to conduct a comprehensive review to assess the health and environmental impacts of chlorine levels in public water systems.