

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 179

BY SENATOR MIZELL

WATER QUALITY. Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to review the Community Water System Accountability letter grade point values.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to review the Community Water
3 System Accountability letter grade point values and make modifications as needed
4 to ensure the public is getting an accurate and reliable letter grade for Louisiana
5 water systems.

6 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health's Safe Drinking Water Program
7 enforces the drinking water regulations for the state and provides several ways to search
8 water quality and regulatory information; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2021, the legislature passed "The Community Drinking Water
10 Infrastructure Sustainability Act" which requires the Louisiana Department of Health Safe
11 Drinking Water Program to provide for a statewide system of accountability for community
12 water systems and establish a letter grade schedule reflective of community water system
13 quality, performance, and sustainability; and

14 WHEREAS, the law provides for seven standards evaluating the infrastructure,
15 accountability, and overall health risk of drinking water to consumers, but gave the
16 department flexibility in allocating individual point values for each of the standards through
17 rulemaking; and

18 WHEREAS, the standards and point values include:

- 1 (1) Federal water quality violations - 30 points.
- 2 (2) State water quality violations - 10 points.
- 3 (3) Financial sustainability - 10 points.
- 4 (4) Operation and maintenance performance - 15 points.
- 5 (5) Infrastructure violations - 20 points.
- 6 (6) Customer satisfaction - 10 points.
- 7 (7) Level of and secondary contaminants - 5 points.

8 WHEREAS, water systems also have the opportunity to earn up to 10 bonus points
9 for things including an asset management plan, storage assessment and maintenance
10 program, well assessment and maintenance program, participation in a capacity development
11 program, or management training program; and

12 WHEREAS, in May 2026, the department published the fourth annual community
13 water system grades offering a transparent look at the quality and performance of more than
14 nine hundred systems serving Louisiana residents; and

15 WHEREAS, the May 2026 report shows continued progress statewide, with fewer
16 water systems receiving failing grades and more systems demonstrating measurable
17 improvements in performance; and

18 WHEREAS, for consumers, notice of a poor water system grade does not imply
19 unsafe water and does not pose an immediate health risk, but rather can indicate significant
20 concerns with the long-term viability of a water system that requires major improvements
21 or upgrades in order to continuously provide safe drinking water; and

22 WHEREAS, the most noticeable factor for consumers is the color and odor of their
23 drinking water, which is considered under the customer satisfaction and secondary
24 contaminants factors; and

25 WHEREAS, the maximum number of points that a water system can have deducted
26 for color and odor is 15 points; and

27 WHEREAS, it is appropriate after compiling four years of water system grades for
28 the department to conduct a review of the Community Water System Accountability letter
29 grade point values and make modifications as needed to ensure the public is getting an
30 accurate and reliable letter grade for their water systems, including whether the point values

