
DIGEST

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HB 533 Original

2017 Regular Session

Hunter

Abstract: Requires enforcement of the primary and secondary drinking water standards established by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Present law provides for the inspection and testing of public drinking water to enforce the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the La. Dept. of Health (LDH), and the Public Service Commission (PSC) to ensure that the potable water provided to the public for use and consumption meets all of the primary and secondary drinking water standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Proposed law requires DEQ, LDH, and the PSC to conduct random unannounced inspections at sufficient intervals to determine compliance with proposed law or when deemed necessary and to post and maintain the results of the inspections conducted pursuant to proposed law on their respective internet website.

Proposed law requires each water utility system to conduct quarterly tests to confirm compliance with proposed law and to submit a report of the results of the inspection to DEQ, LDH, and the PSC, who shall post and maintain the reports on their respective internet website.

Proposed law requires LDH, if the results of a test show an imminent danger to human health, to appoint a fiscal administrator for the water utility system who shall immediately consult with the chief executive of the entity that owns the water utility system to determine the appropriate action to take to ensure the safety of the drinking water.

Proposed law requires DEQ, LDH, and the PSC to promulgate appropriate penalties, including but not limited to civil fines, for any violation of proposed law. In the absence of promulgated penalties, proposed law requires imposition of the civil fines established by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Proposed law authorizes a request for an appropriation through the Interim Emergency Board for any funding necessary to take the appropriate action to bring a water utility system into compliance with proposed law and sets the funding priority.

Proposed law provides for a credit on a customer's water utility bill for each day that the water supplied to the consumer did not meet the standards required by proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 40:5.6.1)