The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 4 Reengrossed 2026 Regular Session Fesi

Present law requires the La. Dept. of Health to establish a water fluoridation program.

Present law requires public water systems with at least 5,000 service connections to fluoridate the water and provides exemptions for water systems that meet certain criteria.

Present law requires the La. Dept. of Health to establish optimal levels of fluoridation for public water systems.

Present law authorizes water systems that have never used fluoridation and have levels outside of the range established by the La. Dept. of Health to opt out of fluoridation if 15% of registered voters in the precincts served by the water system sign a petition and a local election is called by the governing authority in which a majority of registered voters approve the exemption.

Proposed law authorizes any water system to opt out of fluoridation if a local election is called by the governing authority and a majority of registered voters approve the exemption to the fluoridation requirements.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 40:5.11)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Applies provisions requiring local approval to fluoridate water to public water systems that have not added fluoride as of July 1, 2026.

2. Adds provision allowing any public water system that has added fluoride as of July 1, 2026, to cease fluoridation if 15% of registered voters in the precincts served by the water system sign a petition and a local election is called by the governing authority in which a majority of registered voters approve ceasing fluoridation.

3. Makes technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Removes provisions requiring local approval to opt in or opt out of fluoridation.

2. Authorizes any water system to opt out of fluoridation if a local election is called by the governing authority and a majority of registered voters approve the exemption to the fluoridation requirements.