

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 179

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the standards and point values include:

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

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

program, or management training program; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, it is appropriate after compiling four years of water system grades for the department to conduct a review of the Community Water System Accountability letter grade point values and make modifications as needed to ensure the public is getting an accurate and reliable letter grade for their water systems, including whether the point values allocated for each standard should be modified.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to review the Community Water System Accountability letter grade point values and make modifications as needed to ensure the public is getting an accurate and reliable letter grade for Louisiana water systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit a report of its review and any modifications made to the grading system to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library, as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than March 1, 2027.

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**ENROLLED**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE