



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 4** SLS 26RS 116  
 Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 30, 2026 12:55 PM	<b>Author:</b> FESI
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Louisiana Department of Health/OPH	
<b>Subject:</b> Water Fluoridation of Public Water Systems	<b>Analyst:</b> Anthony Shamis

PUBLIC HEALTH RE SEE FISC NOTE LF EX Page 1 of 1  
 Provides relative to water fluoridation.

Present law requires the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to establish a water fluoridation program. Requires public water systems with with at least 5,000 service connections to fluoridate the water and provides exemptions for water systems that meet certain criteria. Requires LDH to establish optimal levels of fluoridation for public water systems. Authorizes water systems that have never used fluoridation and have levels outside of the range established by LDH 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 and 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.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>	
<b>Annual Total</b>						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law may have an indeterminable expenditure impact to local governing authorities. The removal of petition requirements and the modification of exemption provisions may increase the number of local governing authorities electing to call local elections regarding water fluoridation exemptions. However, the frequency and extent of such elections cannot be projected and are therefore indeterminable at this time.

To the extent that a local proposition is placed on a regularly scheduled election date, there is no anticipated expenditure impact to the state.

Costs incurred by local governing authorities will vary depending on election circumstances. If a local proposition election is held as a stand-alone election, the governing authority calling the election is responsible for the full cost. If the proposition is included on a ballot with a statewide election or an election involving a state office, the governing authority is responsible for only a portion of the total cost, which is significantly reduced.

The total cost to local governing authorities for such elections is indeterminable and dependent upon the timing and structure of the election.

Present law authorizes a local election to be called regarding exemption from water fluoridation requirements upon submission of a petition signed by at least 15% of registered voters residing in the precincts served by the water system, as certified by the parish registrar of voters, to the governing authority of each affected municipality or parish.

Proposed law removes the requirement for a signed petition to initiate such a local election.

Present law further provides that a public water system that has never implemented fluoridation and whose natural fluoride levels fall outside the range established in administrative rules may be exempt from compliance, provided that: (1) A petition signed by at least 15% of registered voters is submitted; and (2) A local election is held to approve the exemption.

Proposed law modifies this exemption provision to authorize any local governing authority to call a local election to determine whether the system will be exempted from water fluoridation requirements.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate Dual Referral Rules  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

*Alan M. Boxberger*  
 Alan M. Boxberger  
 Legislative Fiscal Officer