

New law provides the Dept. of Health and Hospitals, office of public health, shall promulgate rules and regulations that require a public or private water system to maintain a minimum disinfectant level of free or total chlorine in the water being delivered to the distribution system, in finished water storage tanks, and in all points of the distribution. Prohibits rules and regulations from specifying a minimum disinfectant level of less than 0.1 parts per million (ppm).

Does not apply to any private water system that supplies water to three or less residences or that is used primarily for agricultural operations.

Provides for any industrial user that owns, operates, or maintains a water system that is dedicated exclusively to its operations may apply for a variance. Requires the department to review the variance request and criteria to grant the variance. Proposed law provides that current holders of a variance are not required to reapply for a variance.

Provides the department shall submit an annual report to the legislative health and welfare committees, no later than February 1st of each year.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Adds R.S. 40:4.15)