
DIGEST

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HB 823 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Hunter

Abstract: Requires enforcement of the secondary drinking water standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in certain municipalities.

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 Dept. of Health and Hospitals (DHH), and the Public Service Commission (PSC) to ensure that the potable water provided to the public for use and consumption meets all of the secondary drinking water standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a water utility system servicing municipalities having a population less than 1,200 but greater than 700 located in parishes having a population of less than 6,000 as of the latest federal decennial census.

Proposed law requires DEQ, DHH, 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 this Paragraph on their respective internet website.

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

Proposed law requires that if an inspection required by proposed law or any other inspection shows an imminent danger to human health the DHH secretary shall appoint a certified operator of the system who shall immediately consult with the chief executive of the entity that owns the water system to determine the appropriate action to take to ensure the safety of the drinking water.

Proposed law provides that if the appointed certified operator is unable to timely consult with such chief executive, the appointed certified operator shall take any action necessary to ensure the safety of the drinking water and notify the executive and the secretary as soon as practicable.

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)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Limit the application of proposed law to a water utility system servicing municipalities having a population less than 1,200 but greater than 700 located in parishes having a population of less than 6,000.
2. Require the secretary to appoint a certified operator with certain duties for systems in those municipalities with inspections that show an imminent danger to human health.
3. Remove requirements to establish penalties.
4. Make technical changes.