

SENATE BILL REPORT

ESHB 1251

As of March 7, 2023

Title: An act relating to water systems' notice to customers of public health considerations.

Brief Description: Concerning water systems' notice to customers of public health considerations.

Sponsors: House Committee on Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Stonier, Bateman, Reed, Riccelli and Pollet).

Brief History: Passed House: 2/9/23, 97-0.

Committee Activity: Health & Long Term Care: 3/10/23.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires a public water system to notify customers and the Department of Health of intentions to start or stop water fluoridation.
- Requires a public water system in violation of the notification requirements to return fluoridation to its prior level until the notification requirements have been satisfied.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG TERM CARE

Staff: Megan Tudor (786-7478)

Background: Water Fluoridation. Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral that can help provide protection against tooth decay. Current statute authorizes a water district by a majority vote of its board of commissioners to add fluoride to the water supply system of the water district. The commissioners may propose the fluoridation of the water supply to be submitted to the electors of the water district at any general election or special election called to vote on the proposition. The proposition must be approved by a majority of the electors voting on the proposition to become effective. Public water systems are not

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required to adopt fluoridation.

Public Water Systems. A public water system is defined as any system that provides water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, excluding a system serving only one single-family residence and a system with four or fewer connections all of which serve residences on the same farm. The water system includes any collection, treatment, storage, or distribution facilities under control of the purveyor and used primarily in connection with the system; and collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under control of the purveyor but primarily used in connection with the system.

Summary of Bill: A public water system must notify customers and the Department of Health of intentions to start or stop water fluoridation at least 90 days before a vote or decision is made. A public water system that violates these notification requirements must return fluoridation to its previous level until the notification requirements have been satisfied.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available. New fiscal note requested on March 3, 2023.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.