

ASSEMBLY, No. 2747

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 13, 2010

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LINDA STENDER

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires boil water notices to be provided to public via telephone.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/15/2010)

1 AN ACT concerning providing boil water notices to the public and
2 supplementing the "Safe Drinking Water Act," P.L.1977, c.224
3 (C.58:12A-1 et seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
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8 1. a. Whenever any public water system experiences an
9 emergency or other condition that requires the issuance of a boil
10 water notice, the owner or operator shall provide notice to the
11 public that a boil water notice is in effect. The owner or operator of
12 the public water system shall notify the public of the boil water
13 notice as soon as possible, but in no case later than 24 hours after
14 the public water system learns of the emergency or other condition.

15 b. (1) The owner or operator of the public water system shall
16 notify the public of the boil water notice via the preferred means of
17 contact of each customer of the public water system, in addition to
18 any other notice required by State or federal law. If a customer
19 does not return the solicitation provided for in paragraph (2) of this
20 subsection or otherwise specify a preferred means of contact, the
21 owner or operator of the public water system shall notify the
22 customer of a boil water notice via telephone. The public water
23 system shall also post notice of the boil water notice on any website
24 that the public water system maintains for the public or its
25 customers.

26 (2) Within 60 days following the effective date of
27 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) the
28 owner or operator of the public water system shall include in the
29 water bills issued by the system for each customer a solicitation for
30 the customer's preferred means of contact. If the system issues its
31 water bills less frequently than every two months, the solicitation
32 shall be included in the bill next issued following the effective date
33 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). A
34 public water system shall have or acquire the capability to notify
35 the public and its customers of a boil water notice telephone,
36 electronic mail, and text message.

37 c. The notice provided to the public shall contain the name of
38 the public water system affected, the geographical area affected, the
39 date of the occurrence giving rise to the boil water notice, the
40 consumer corrective measures to be taken, and a telephone number
41 where consumers may reach an appropriate party to address
42 questions or other concerns about the boil water notice or the
43 situation necessitating issuance of the notice.

44 d. The owner or operator of the public water system shall be
45 responsible for rescission of the boil water notice. Notice of the
46 rescission of a boil water notice shall be provided in the manner
47 prescribed for notice in subsection c. of this section.

1 For purposes of this section, "boil water notice" means a notice
2 instructing the public to boil water because of confirmed
3 contamination in a public water system.

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5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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10 This bill would require public water systems to provide prompt
11 public notice when a boil water notice is in effect. The notice
12 would have to be provided via the preferred means of contact of a
13 customer of the water system and would have to contain certain
14 information.

15 Public water systems require the public to boil drinking or
16 cooking water at times when there is a substantial risk of outbreaks
17 of illness involving microbiological contaminants, such as bacteria
18 or protozoa, in potable water. To protect the public's health, boil
19 water notices must be issued in a timely manner and reach the
20 public as soon as practicable. Electronic communications provide
21 an effective and reliable means of providing prompt notice.

22 This bill also requires that the boil water notice contain useful
23 information, including the affected area, actions that may be taken
24 by consumers, and a telephone number where consumers may reach
25 an appropriate party to address questions or other concerns.