

ASSEMBLY, No. 1652

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Requires institutions of higher education to test for lead in drinking water annually, report test results, and install lead filters or treatment devices.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning lead in drinking water at institutions of higher
2 education and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. Each institution of higher education shall undertake
9 periodic testing of each drinking water outlet used at the institution
10 for the presence of lead. Each test for lead shall be conducted by a
11 laboratory certified for this purpose by the Department of
12 Environmental Protection, and in accordance with the sampling and
13 testing methods established and provided by the department. The
14 initial tests for lead shall be conducted no later than 90 days after
15 the effective date of this act and subsequent testing shall be
16 conducted at least annually thereafter.

17 b. Within 30 days after completion of the testing required
18 pursuant to subsection a. of this section, each institution of higher
19 education shall:

20 (1) provide a copy of the test results to the Secretary of Higher
21 Education and the Commissioner of Environmental Protection;

22 (2) post the test results on its Internet website; and

23 (3) notify students, faculty, and staff, electronically or in
24 writing, of the test results, and the actions being taken to remediate
25 drinking water outlets found to be contributing to an elevated lead
26 level in drinking water.

27 c. (1) If testing conducted pursuant to subsection a. of this
28 section reveals an elevated lead level at a drinking water outlet, the
29 institution of higher education shall immediately close off access to
30 that outlet and provide an alternate drinking water supply until such
31 time as the lead level in the drinking water is tested to be below the
32 standard therefore established by the United States Environmental
33 Protection Agency, or the department, whichever is more stringent.

34 (2) Each institution of higher education shall identify each
35 building at the institution that contains lead pipes, lead solder, or
36 fixtures containing lead, and provide a list of the identified
37 buildings to the Secretary of Higher Education. Each institution
38 shall install a water filter or water treatment device certified to
39 remove lead on each drinking water outlet in the identified
40 buildings. The water filters or water treatment devices shall be
41 maintained and replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's
42 recommendations for the filter or device to ensure they remain
43 functional.

44 d. As used in this section:

45 "Department" means the Department of Environmental
46 Protection.

1 “Drinking water outlet” means any water fountain, faucet, or tap
2 regularly used for drinking or food preparation, including ice-
3 making and hot drink machines.

4 “Elevated lead level” means a lead concentration in drinking
5 water that exceeds the standard therefor established by the United
6 States Environmental Protection Agency, or the department,
7 whichever is more stringent.

8
9 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

10
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12 STATEMENT

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14 This bill would require institutions of higher education to test for
15 lead in drinking water annually, report the test results, and install
16 lead filters or treatment devices.

17 Specifically, under the bill, each institution of higher education
18 in the State would be required to test each drinking water outlet
19 used at the institution for the presence of lead no later than 90 days
20 after the effective date of the act, and repeat the testing at least once
21 annually. The testing would have to be conducted by a laboratory
22 certified for this purpose by the Department of Environmental
23 Protection (DEP) and in accordance with the sampling and testing
24 methods provided by the DEP. Within 30 days after completion of
25 the testing, each institution of higher education would be required
26 to: 1) provide a copy of the test results to the Secretary of Higher
27 Education and the Commissioner of Environmental Protection; 2)
28 post the test results on its Internet website; and 3) notify students,
29 faculty, and staff, electronically or in writing, of the test results and
30 the actions being taken to remediate any lead issues.

31 Under the bill, if testing reveals an elevated lead level at a
32 drinking water outlet, the institution of higher education must
33 immediately close off access to the outlet and provide an alternate
34 source of drinking water until such time as the lead level in the
35 drinking water is tested to be below the federal or State standard for
36 lead in drinking water, whichever is more stringent. In addition,
37 each institution would be required to identify each building at the
38 institution that contains lead pipes, lead solder, or fixtures
39 containing lead, and provide a list of the identified buildings to the
40 Secretary of Higher Education. Each institution would be required
41 to install a water filter or water treatment device on each drinking
42 water outlet in the identified buildings, and maintain those devices
43 appropriately.