

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 143

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 20, 1997

By Assemblymen **HOLZAPFEL** and **WOLFE**

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** memorializing the Congress of the United States
2 and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to establish a safe
3 drinking water standard for acrylonitrile-styrene.
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5 **WHEREAS**, In recognition of the fact that the maintenance of high-quality
6 potable water is essential to safeguard the health and welfare of the nation's
7 citizens, the federal government enacted the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
8 U.S.C. §300 et al.); and
9 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey enacted the "Safe Drinking Water Act"
10 in 1977, empowering the Department of Environmental Protection to
11 assume primary enforcement responsibility under the federal Safe Drinking
12 Water Act, and to adopt and enforce additional State rules and regulations
13 to purify drinking water prior to its consumption by the public; and
14 **WHEREAS**, It was recently discovered that the drinking water in parts of
15 Ocean County, most notably in Toms River and Dover Township, contain
16 a chemical mixture called acrylonitrile-styrene; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Although acrylonitrile, through scientific analysis, has been
18 associated with certain brain and central nervous system cancers, and
19 styrene is listed in the federal regulations as a substance that must be tested
20 for in public drinking water supplies, there are no drinking water standards
21 for the various compounds created when these two independently
22 hazardous substances are combined; and
23 **WHEREAS**, The abnormally high incidence of cancer, especially in children, in
24 the Toms River area of Ocean County, coupled with the identification of
25 high levels of a potentially carcinogenic chemical in that area's drinking
26 water supply, have created an urgent need for additional action; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Further testing is necessary to determine the effects of acrylonitrile-
28 styrene on human health and to establish a federal standard, the
29 exceedance of which would result in immediate remediation efforts; now,
30 therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

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3 1. This House memorializes the Congress of the United States and the
4 United States Environmental Protection Agency to establish a safe drinking
5 water standard for acrylonitrile-styrene.

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7 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of
8 the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted
9 to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
10 House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the United
11 States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, each member
12 of Congress elected from the State of New Jersey, the Administrator of the
13 United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Region II Administrator
14 of that agency, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of
15 Environmental Protection, and the Commissioner of the New Jersey
16 Department of Health.

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STATEMENT

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21 This resolution memorializes the Congress of the United States and the
22 United States Environmental Protection Agency to supplement federal safe
23 drinking water standards to include acrylonitrile-styrene and its various
24 compounds and isomers.

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29 Memorializes Congress and EPA to include acrylonitrile-styrene in drinking
30 water standards.