

# HB 2610 -- GET THE LEAD OUT OF SCHOOL DRINKING WATER ACT

SPONSOR: Brown (70)

This bill creates the "Get the Lead Out of School Drinking Water Act".

The bill defines a "disadvantaged school district" as any school district that serves students from a county with at least 25% of families below the federal poverty guidelines or with more than 70% of the families qualifying for free and reduced lunch.

The bill requires that, beginning in 2023-24 school year, schools provide drinking water with a lead concentration level below the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommended maximum level of one part per billion.

Before January 1, 2024, schools must complete several requirements as outlined in the bill including: conducting an inventory of all drinking and non drinking water sources in each school building, installing filters to reduce lead in drinking water, and posting warning signs to indicate water purposes.

School districts must prioritize early childhood, kindergarten, and elementary buildings and provide sufficiently filtered water for all students and staff that meets the filter specifications outlined in the bill. Districts must conduct testing of filtered water sources within 60 days of filter installation and annually thereafter. Results of testing must be posted on the school website with an opportunity for a public meeting to discuss results. Districts must also submit test results to the Safe Drinking Water Commission.

The bill outlines procedures for districts if a sample draw shows a lead concentration of one part per billion or greater including: shutting off and labeling drinking water sources, providing bottled water for staff and students, and developing remediation steps.

The bill authorizes districts to seek reimbursement from a variety of federal and state sources for costs associated with expenses they may incur to be in compliance with the requirements outlined in the bill.

The bill directs the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Safe Drinking Water Commission to publish a report biennially based on the findings of the water tests outlined to be made public on the Safe Drinking Water Commission and DESE websites. The bill additionally directs the Safe Drinking Water Commission to provide guidance within a specified number of

days regarding the maintenance of filters and filtration systems and the development of flushing plans, to develop an online training program for custodial staff relating to the maintenance of filters and filtration systems, and for school districts to implement a plan.

The bill provides the Safe Drinking Water Commission the authority to enter school buildings and ensure compliance, including authorization to issue administrative orders and assess penalties. No school building constructed after January 4, 2014 shall be required to install, maintain, or replace filters, and any school district that undertakes remediation efforts may use a cost effective method.

This bill is the same as HB 2532 (2022).