

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2915**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Lori A. Ehrlich and Joan B. Lovely***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act ensuring safe drinking water at schools and early childhood programs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Gerard Cassidy</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>

<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Eileen M. Donoghue</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>
<i>William Driscoll</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Solomon Goldstein-Rose</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Robert M. Koczera</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>
<i>Stephen Kulik</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Kevin J. Kuros</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Adrian Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Juana B. Matias</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Rady Mom</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>Brian Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>David M. Nangle</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kathleen O'Connor Ives</i>	<i>First Essex</i>

<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Paul Tucker</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>RoseLee Vincent</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas P. Walsh</i>	<i>12th Essex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2915**

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By Representative Ehrlich of Marblehead and Senator Lovely, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2915) of Lori A. Ehrlich, Joan B. Lovely and others relative to drinking water at schools and early childhood programs. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
—————

An Act ensuring safe drinking water at schools and early childhood programs.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 160G the  
2 following Section:-

3 Section 160H. The Safe Drinking Water at School Act

4 (a) Definitions

5 As used in this section, the following words shall have the following meanings unless the  
6 context clearly requires otherwise:

7 “Commissioner,” the Commissioner of The Department of Environmental Protection.

8 “Department,” the Department of Environmental Protection.

9           “Drinking water outlet,” any water fountain, faucet, tap other end-point for delivery of  
10 water regularly used for drinking or food preparation, including ice- making and hot drink  
11 machines.

12           “Early childhood program,” a center-based child care facility.

13           “Elevated lead level,” a lead concentration in drinking water that exceeds one part per  
14 billion.

15           “Lead service line,” a pipe and its fittings, which are not “lead free” as defined under  
16 section 1417 of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–6) that connect a drinking  
17 water main to a building inlet.

18           “Local Board of Health,” any Board of Health authorized under Sections 26-33,  
19 inclusive, of Chapter 111 of the Massachusetts General Laws

20           “NSF certified filters,” Any filter certified by the National Sanitation Foundation to  
21 remove lead from drinking water.

22           “School,” any facility operating for the development and education of children in pre-  
23 school through 12th grade, whether operated by a school district, charter, or non-public entity.

24           “Technical guidance,” the technical guidance for detecting and remediating lead in  
25 drinking water at schools issued the department pursuant to subsection (2) of section (f) of this  
26 Act.

27           (b) Lead Service Line Replacement

28 (1) Public water systems shall fully replace lead service lines at every school district,  
29 charter school, nonpublic school, and early childhood program they serve within three years of  
30 the effective date of this act. Said replacement shall be paid for by the public water system,  
31 regardless of ownership of any portion of the service line, and shall be performed in coordination  
32 with the relevant municipality and school or early childhood center, and in conformity with the  
33 department's technical guidance.

34 (2) Each public water system shall provide every school district, charter school,  
35 nonpublic school, and early childhood program it serves with the information in its possession  
36 relating to the location of lead service lines within 30 days of the effective date of this act. Each  
37 school district, charter school, nonpublic school and early childhood program shall determine  
38 which of its buildings receive drinking water through lead service lines and report the same to  
39 the department within 60 days of the effective date of this act. Within 90 days of the effective  
40 date of this Act, the department shall issue an enforceable order to each public water system to  
41 replace all lead services lines at schools and early childhood programs.

42 (3) Lead service lines shall be disposed of in accord with hazardous waste laws, and shall  
43 not be landfilled or incinerated.

44 (c) Preventing Lead Contamination.

45 Each school and early childhood program with one or more tests showing elevated lead  
46 levels in water from any drinking water outlet, including but not limited to tests conducted under  
47 the Commonwealth's "Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water" or under section  
48 (d) of this act, shall:

49 (1) immediately shut off the drinking water outlet(s) in question until measures are  
50 undertaken to ensure that the water from the drinking water outlet(s) will no longer have elevated  
51 lead levels

52 (2) within six months of receiving a test showing elevated lead levels, develop and adopt  
53 a plan of action to prevent elevated lead levels in all water used for drinking or cooking. Said  
54 plan of action shall include:

55 (i) installing and maintaining NSF certified filters at all faucets, fountains, or other  
56 drinking water outlets within eighteen months of the effective date of this act. A school or early  
57 childhood program may, consistent with other obligations in law, remove select drinking water  
58 outlets from operation in lieu of installing filters on those drinking water outlets, so long as every  
59 child has reasonable access to free, safe drinking water

60 (ii) replacing lead-bearing fixtures and plumbing with lead soldering where feasible and  
61 cost-effective, within two years of receiving elevated lead level test results

62 (iii) may also include other measures to reduce lead contamination of water, consistent  
63 with the department's technical guidance in section (f)(2) of this Act

64 (3) Aside from the requirement to install and maintain NSF filters at all drinking water  
65 outlets in subsection (2)(i), nothing in this section shall prevent a school or early childhood  
66 program from adjusting its plan of action, especially in response to public input, consistent with  
67 the department's technical guidance.

68 (4) A school or early childhood program may seek the assistance of local board of health,  
69 public water system, or the department to help ensure its compliance with the provisions of this  
70 section.

71 (5) Nothing in this section contravenes requirements for more timely remediation when  
72 tests show drinking water outlets with elevated lead levels, as provided in subsection (c)(2) of  
73 this Act.

74 (d) Testing and Immediate Remediation

75 (1) Each school and early childhood program shall undertake annual testing of each  
76 drinking water outlet in each school for the presence of lead. Each test for lead shall be  
77 conducted by a laboratory certified for this purpose by the commissioner, in accordance with the  
78 sampling and testing methods specified in the department’s technical guidance. If a school or  
79 childhood education program has not tested its drinking water outlets for lead under the  
80 Commonwealth’s “Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water,” it shall conduct  
81 initial tests for lead at each drinking water outlet no later than 90 days after the effective date of  
82 this act.

83 Unless the commissioner determines, on a case-by-case basis, that a greater or lesser  
84 frequency of testing is necessary or sufficient to ensure the public health, including but not  
85 limited to timely testing after replacement of lead service lines.

86 (2) Nothing in this section shall prevent a school district, charter school, or nonpublic  
87 school from conducting more frequent testing than required pursuant to subsection (d)(1) of this  
88 section.

89 (e) Transparency and Public Right to Know

90 (1) Each school and early childhood program shall:

91 (i) submit to the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Education,  
92 and the Department of Health, as soon as practicable-

93 (A) its plan of action for preventing lead contamination of water, pursuant to section  
94 (c)(2) of this Act, and modifications thereto

95 (B) progress on implementing its plan of action

96 (C) information on tests conducted pursuant to section (d), including, but not limited to,  
97 the date the testing was completed, the location and type of each drinking water outlet tested, the  
98 complete results of each test, and any immediate measures being taken in response to tests  
99 showing drinking water outlet(s) with elevated lead levels.

100 (ii) maintain copies of the information submitted pursuant to paragraph (i) of this  
101 subsection in a suitable location for inspection by the public, and on the Internet website of the  
102 school or early childhood program.

103 (iii) notify parent, teacher, and employee organizations of the availability of the  
104 information submitted pursuant to paragraph (i) of this subsection.

105 (iv) designate a person to serve as the contact person for communications with the  
106 department and the public regarding the lead testing and remediation activities.

107 (v) If testing conducted pursuant to section (d) reveals an elevated lead level at a drinking  
108 water outlet, the school or early childhood program shall, within one business day, notify

109 teachers, other school personnel, and parents directly, through written notice, electronic mail, or  
110 other means approved by the department. Such notification shall include, but need not be limited  
111 to:

112 (A) a summary of the results of the testing conducted, and information on the availability  
113 of the complete test results for public inspection at a suitable location and on the Internet website  
114 of the school or early childhood program

115 (B) a description of any remedial measures being taken pursuant to sections (c) and (d) of  
116 this Act

117 (C) general information on the public health effects and risks posed by lead in drinking  
118 water, and information on the availability of additional resources concerning lead in drinking  
119 water, as

120 outlined in the technical guidance.

121 (D) the name and contact information of the person designated pursuant to subsection  
122 (e)(1)(iv) of this section to communicate with the public.

123 (vi) At each drinking water outlet, the school or early childhood program shall post an  
124 electronic QR code with access to information on testing and remediation for that drinking water  
125 outlet. Said information shall include the maintenance schedule and log for installed NSF filters,  
126 unless the drinking water outlet is equipped with a clearly visible indicator for filter replacement.

127 (f) Regulations

128 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of the “Administrative Procedure Act” of Chapter  
129 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws, to the contrary, the Department of Environmental  
130 Protection, in

131 consultation with the Department of Education and the Department of Health, may adopt,  
132 after notice, interim rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act. The  
133 rules and regulations shall be effective as regulations immediately upon filing with the Office of  
134 Administrative Law and shall be effective for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may,  
135 thereafter, be amended, adopted, or readopted by the department in accordance with the  
136 provisions of the “Administrative Procedure Act.”

137 (2) The Department shall issue technical guidance that is at least as protective of the  
138 public health as the technical guidance for reducing lead in drinking water at schools issued by  
139 the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Provisions of the technical guidance related  
140 to testing to determine the presence and levels of lead in water shall be designed to maximize  
141 detection of lead in water, and therefore prohibit sampling or testing methods that tend to mask  
142 lead contamination, including pre-stagnation flushing and removal of aerators prior to sampling.  
143 The department shall provide the technical guidance, a list of laboratories certified to conduct  
144 lead testing, and any other information the department deems appropriate, to each school district,  
145 charter school, and nonpublic school and early childhood program, and post on the same on the  
146 department’s website, within 45 days of the effective date of this bill.

147 (g) Hardship Waiver

148 (1) If a school district or early childhood program is unable to comply with some or all of  
149 the requirements of this act, the superintendent of the school district, the administration of a

150 private day or residential school, or the board of trustees of a charter school, may request a  
151 hardship waiver of some or all of the act's requirements from the commissioner. No less than 30  
152 days prior to requesting a hardship waiver, a public school district or early childhood program  
153 shall notify parents and hold at least one public meeting to present the proposed waiver in detail,  
154 disclose health risks of lead in water, and allow meaningful public input on the decision to  
155 request a waiver.

156 The Department, in consultation with the Department of Public Health and the  
157 Department of Education, shall make available to public schools and childhood education  
158 programs a list of funding sources that a public school or childhood education program may  
159 access to facilitate compliance with requirements of this act.

160 (2) Nothing in this act shall be construed to place additional requirements on a school or  
161 early childhood program that, prior to the effective date of this act, has already taken measures  
162 which, in the judgment of the department, permanently eliminate the risk of elevated lead levels  
163 in its water at all drinking water outlets.