

ASSEMBLY, No. 4821

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 24, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Benson and Assemblywoman Carter

SYNOPSIS

Directs DEP to adopt regulations concerning identification and testing of microplastics in drinking water.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/23/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning the identification and testing of microplastics in
2 drinking water and supplementing P.L.1977, c.224 (C.58:12A-1
3 et seq.).

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

7
8 1. The Drinking Water Quality Institute established pursuant to
9 section 10 of P.L.1983, c.443 (C.58:12A-20) shall study the issue of
10 microplastics in drinking water and, within two years after the
11 effective date of this act, recommend to the Department of
12 Environmental Protection a definition of microplastics in drinking
13 water.

14
15 2. No later than three years after the effective date of this act,
16 the Department of Environmental Protection shall:

17 a. adopt a standard methodology to be used in the testing of
18 drinking water for microplastics;

19 b. adopt requirements for four years of testing and reporting the
20 concentration of microplastics in drinking water by public water
21 systems, including public disclosure of test results; and

22 c. accredit qualified laboratories in New Jersey to analyze
23 microplastics.

24
25 3. The Department of Environmental Protection may adopt
26 rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
27 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to implement the
28 provisions of this act.

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30 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill requires the Drinking Water Quality Institute (DWQI)
36 to study the issue of microplastics in drinking water. It also
37 requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to
38 adopt regulations related to the sampling and testing for the
39 presence of microplastics in drinking water by public water
40 systems.

41 The bill directs the DWQI to recommend a definition of
42 microplastics in drinking water within two years after the bill's
43 effective date. The bill also directs the DEP, within three years
44 after the effective date, to adopt a standard methodology to be used
45 in the testing of drinking water for microplastics, to formulate
46 requirements for testing and reporting the concentration of
47 microplastics in drinking water by public water systems, and to

1 accredit qualified laboratories in New Jersey to analyze
2 microplastics.

3 Microplastics are abundant in the environment and have been
4 detected in the ocean, wastewater, fresh water, food, air, and
5 drinking water. Microplastics may absorb contaminants from the
6 surrounding environment, such as harmful bacteria found in
7 wastewater treatment plants. Microplastics also may contain
8 chemicals left over from the manufacturing process. In addition, in
9 a study of drinking water in the United States, 94 percent of the
10 samples contained microplastics, including a sample collected from
11 the United States Environmental Protection Agency headquarters.

12 In 2018, California passed a law requiring the State Water
13 Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to adopt: (1) a
14 definition of microplastics in drinking water; (2) a standard
15 methodology to be used in the testing of drinking water for
16 microplastics; and (3) requirements for four years of testing and
17 reporting of microplastics in drinking water, including public
18 disclosure of those results. On June 16, 2020, the State Water
19 Board adopted a definition of “microplastics in drinking water,” and
20 since then, the State Water Board has been working to adopt
21 standardized methods for monitoring, extracting, analyzing, testing,
22 and reporting microplastics in drinking water.