

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 995

BY REPRESENTATIVE JONES

WATER/DRINKING WATER: Increases the safe drinking water administration fee

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:31.33(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 40:31.33(C) and (D), relative  
3 to the safe drinking water administration fee; to increase the fee on community water  
4 systems; to increase the portion retained by community water systems for  
5 administrative costs; to provide for the use of the collected fees; to provide for an  
6 official designation of the fee; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 40:31.33(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
9 40:31.33(C) and (D) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §31.33. Safe drinking water ~~administration~~ fee; exemptions

11 A.(1) ~~In order to comply with the provisions of R.S. 40:5.6 and the federal~~  
12 ~~Safe Drinking Water Act,~~ The department shall charge an annual fee of ~~three~~ twelve  
13 dollars ~~and twenty cents~~ per metered connection or account for community systems.  
14 The fee shall be collected from each consumer by the community system provider  
15 and remitted to the department, minus ~~thirty-two~~ sixty cents per metered connection  
16 or account to be retained by the community system provider for administrative costs  
17 for the collection of ~~such~~ the fee.

18 \* \* \*

19 C. The funds remitted to the department pursuant to Subsections A and B of  
20 this Section shall be used for the following purposes:

1           (1) To comply with the provisions of R.S. 40:5.6 and the federal Safe  
2           Drinking Water Act.

3           (2) To offset the annual costs of the Louisiana Rural Water Association in  
4           an amount not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars.

5           (3) To fund up to forty additional sanitarian positions within the department  
6           based upon the number of sanitarian positions funded by the department on July 1,  
7           2016.

8           D. The fee collected pursuant to Subsections A and B of this Section shall  
9           be known as the "Safe Drinking Water Fee".

#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 995 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Jones

**Abstract:** Increases the safe drinking water administration fee paid by consumers of community water systems and dedicates the proceeds of the fee.

Present law requires the Dept. of Health and Hospitals (DHH) to perform all inspections, tests, or procedures on public water supplies authorized by the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act at no cost to any municipality, parish governing authority, or any public or privately owned water system except as provided in present law.

Present law authorizes DHH to charge an annual fee of \$3.20 per metered connection or account for community systems to be collected from each consumer by the community system provider and remitted to the department, minus 32¢ per metered connection or account to be retained by the community system provider for administrative costs for the collection of the fee.

Proposed law increases the fee to \$12 and authorizes each community system provider to retain 60¢.

Proposed law requires the fees remitted to DHH to be used for the following purposes:

- (1) To comply with the provisions of R.S. 40:5.6 and the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.
- (2) To offset the annual costs of the La. Rural Water Association in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.
- (3) To fund up to 40 additional sanitarian positions within DHH based upon the number of sanitarian positions funded on July 1, 2016.

Proposed law officially designates the fee as the "Safe Drinking Water Fee".

(Amends R.S. 40:31.33(A)(1); Adds R.S. 40:31.33(C) and (D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Dedicate the proceeds of the fee to certain uses.
2. Designate the fee as the "Safe Drinking Water Fee".
3. Make technical changes.