

By Senator Cruz

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to drinking water in public schools;
3 creating s. 1013.29, F.S.; providing legislative
4 findings; defining terms; subject to legislative
5 appropriation, requiring district boards to coordinate
6 with district school boards to identify certain
7 schools and to provide funding to those schools by a
8 specified date; requiring school districts, as
9 applicable, to install filters that meet certain
10 specifications on drinking water sources; requiring
11 school districts, as applicable, to post signage on
12 certain water sources and requiring school districts
13 to publish specified information on school district
14 websites; authorizing district boards to request
15 additional funding to compensate school district staff
16 for the installation or replacement of filters;
17 limiting the additional funding to not more than the
18 amount appropriated; requiring the State Board of
19 Education to adopt rules; providing an appropriation;
20 providing an effective date.

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22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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24 Section 1. Section 1013.29, Florida Statutes, is created to
25 read:

26 1013.29 Prevention of lead in drinking water in public
27 schools; installation of water treatment units.-

28 (1) The Legislature finds that:

29 (a) The adverse health effects of lead exposure in children

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30 and adults are well documented and that no safe blood lead level
31 in children has been identified;

32 (b) Lead accumulates in the body and can be ingested from
33 various sources, including water sources used for drinking, food
34 preparation, or cooking; and

35 (c) All sources of lead should be controlled or eliminated
36 to prevent childhood lead poisoning.

37 (2) As used in this section, the term:

38 (a) "District board" has the same meaning as in s.
39 153.52(3).

40 (b) "Drinking water source" means any water source used for
41 drinking, food preparation, or cooking, including, but not
42 limited to, water fountains, ice makers, and kitchen sinks.

43 (c) "Point of use filter" or "filter" means a water
44 filtration system that treats water at a single tap.

45 (3) By June 30, 2023, subject to the appropriation of funds
46 by the Legislature, each district board shall coordinate with
47 its local district school board to determine which district
48 schools were built before 1986 and shall provide funding to
49 those schools for the purposes specified in this section. As
50 applicable, each school district shall:

51 (a) Install a point of use filter that reduces the lead
52 content in drinking water on each drinking water source and
53 maintain such filters in a manner consistent with the
54 manufacturer's recommendations.

55 1. The filter must be installed by a school district staff
56 member.

57 2. The filter or all of its component parts must meet the
58 NSF International/American National Standards Institute Standard

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59 53: Drinking Water Treatment Units - Health Effects.

60 3. The filter must have a certified capacity of 7,900
61 gallons and, at a minimum, must be changed or replaced annually.

62 (b) Post a conspicuous sign near each school water source
63 that is not a drinking water source. The sign must include
64 wording and an image that clearly communicate that water from
65 the source should not be used for human consumption or, if
66 applicable, for food preparation or cooking.

67 (c) Publish on its website a list of drinking water sources
68 at such schools. At a minimum, the list must include, for each
69 drinking water source, all of the following:

70 1. The date on which the current filter was installed.

71 2. The date on which the current filter is scheduled to be
72 replaced.

73 3. The location of each drinking water source.

74 4. Any actions necessary to comply with the requirements of
75 this section which have been completed or are pending.

76 (4) Each district board may request additional funds for
77 the purpose of compensating school district staff for the
78 installation or replacement of filters. Funds provided pursuant
79 to this subsection may not be more than the total appropriation
80 provided to implement this section.

81 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
82 administer this section.

83 Section 2. For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the sum of \$3
84 million in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the Drinking
85 Water Revolving Loan Trust Fund to district boards, as defined
86 in this act, for the purpose of implementing s. 1013.29, Florida
87 Statutes, as created by this act.

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Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.