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Title: Timely and Transparent Data Sharing for Drinking Water Testing

Introduced by: Laura Carravallah, MD, for the Genesee County Delegation

Original Author: Kendall Bell, Laura Carravallah, MD, Jennifer Choy, Joy Lerner, Myah Ray, and Teresa Soldner

Referred to: Reference Committee D

House Action: **APPROVE**

Whereas, in the summer of 2014, the Flint River, which was supplying drinking water to the City of Flint, became contaminated with coliform bacteria and Total Trihalomethane (TTHM), a carcinogenic byproduct that was elevated, and

Whereas, it took a Freedom of Information Act request and more than 90 days before there was any warning issued to the 100,000 people who were drinking and bathing in the water, and

Whereas, in January 2015, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) wrote to the governor that trihalomethane in the water was not a cause for alarm despite it being more than 80 parts per billion¹, and

Whereas, lead levels in the water tested high in many areas of the city for months before citizens were made aware, and

Whereas, the MDEQ threw out the two highest lead in water results without needing to explain their existence which resulted in keeping the average results of their report in compliance (<15 ppm), and

Whereas, the people most at risk from these health hazards were not deemed privileged to see the information gathered, and

Whereas, the lack of transparency enabled this problem to be hidden for months, resulting in the poisoning of more than 100,000 citizens without giving them the chance to avoid the danger; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS lobby for a state law that requires all municipal water test results performed by municipal, city, county, district, or state agencies to be posted on a publicly available website within seven business days of their receipt; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS lobby for a state law that requires all reportable disease reports performed by city, county, district, or state agencies to be posted on a publicly available website within seven business days of their receipt; and be it further

48 RESOLVED: That MSMS lobby for a state law that requires reports of sewage overflows
49 to be posted on a publicly available website within four hours of the receipt of such reports;
50 and be it further

51
52 RESOLVED: That MSMS supports the creation and availability of a real-time alert system
53 for all water test results, which exceed federal, state, or local standards within a person's
54 designated zip code(s), to which the public could subscribe; and be it further

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56 RESOLVED: That MSMS supports the creation and implementation of a process in which
57 all collected test results related to the quality of water that are excluded from final data
58 analysis are annotated and explained; and be it further

59
60 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA)
61 ask our AMA to lobby at the federal level for legislation, regulations, and/or policies that would
62 do the following:

- 63 1. Require all municipal water test results performed by municipal, city, county, district or
64 state agencies to be posted on a publicly available website within seven business days of
65 their receipt.
- 66 2. Require all communicable disease reports performed by city, county, district or state
67 agencies to be posted on a publicly available website within seven business days of their
68 receipt.
- 69 3. Require reports of sewage overflows to be posted on a publicly available website within
70 four hours of the receipt of such reports.
- 71 4. Create and make available a real-time alert system for all water test results, which
72 exceed federal, state, or local standards within a person's designated zip code(s), to
73 which the public could subscribe.
- 74 5. Create and make available a process in which all collected test results related to the
75 quality of water that are excluded from final data analysis are annotated and explained.

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78 **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**

¹ Flint exceeded the annual average in three quarters. Yet Sheldon Neeley (D), a state representative for Flint, wrote to Governor Snyder stating "it is nothing," citing reasons like "it is not an eminent threat to public health" unlike coliform bacteria. Mr. Neeley, however, did acknowledge in his email that "TTHMs pose a public health concern with chronic, longterm exposure" (https://ballotpedia.org/News_in_Context:_The_Flint_Water_Crisis#cite_note-emails-27)