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Title: Public Alert System Regarding Water Contamination

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

Original Author: Laura Carravallah, MD, Deirdre Davis, Ismael Diallo, Margaret Hannah, Maseray Kamara, Kevin Lutley, Jeremiah Reenders, and Jonathan Weiss

Referred to: Reference Committee D

House Action: **APPROVE**

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Whereas, the residents of Flint, Michigan have been impacted by the erosion of lead into the drinking water throughout the city, and

Whereas, a sinkhole in Macomb County has resulted in a sewage infiltration into the drinking water of 300,000 people, and

Whereas, water contaminants have resulted in infections, chronic illness, and childhood developmental issues, and

Whereas, elevated total trihalomethanes (TTHM) were discovered in Flint water in 2014, and

Whereas, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality monitors water quality for Flint and tests for harmful levels of trihalomethanes, and

Whereas, the state of Michigan has a responsibility to inform the public when individuals are at increased risk of drinking contaminated water, and

Whereas, the Code Red Alert System is a cell phone alert system in Genesee County that reports evacuation notices, bioterrorism alerts, boil water notices and missing child reports but does not currently warn users or residents of other contamination of water sources, and

Whereas, the Code Red Alert System was previously populated by a landline database limiting the reach of a text message alert, and

Whereas, there is limited public awareness of the Code Red Alert System; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate for the existing "Code Red" text message system in Genesee County to include notices for elevated Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) in addition to the current boil water advisory notices; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality coordinate with local health departments to warn residents in a timely fashion of harmful TTHM contamination or any other violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act in the Flint water system, and provide information to the appropriate channels including Genesee County Law Enforcement Agencies to allow it to be disseminated through the existing "Code Red" phone alert system; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS supports coordination between state and local health departments to provide specific electronic alerts in cases of compromised water quality (e.g., boil water notices,

54 elevated TTHMs, harmful pathogens, or other parameters monitored by the Safe Drinking Water Act;  
55 and be it further

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57           RESOLVED: That MSMS lobby the state Legislature to provide funding to advertise and  
58 promote the use of Genesee County's Code Red alert system. Efforts would be made to increase sign  
59 up for the program by increasing awareness and distributing informational pamphlets at various  
60 public health related avenues. (e.g. health fairs, clinics, water distribution sites, etc.); and be it further

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62           RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate for the expansion of public health early warning systems  
63 such as Genesee County's Code Red alert system to other appropriate municipalities in Michigan.

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66 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

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**Relevant MSMS Policy (pending final approval of the MSMS Policy Manual update by the 2017 HOD):**

**MSMS supports the following:**

1. Creation and availability of a real-time alert system for all water test results, which exceed federal, state, or local standards within a person's designated zip code(s), to which the public could subscribe; and
2. Creation and implementation of a process in which all collected test results related to the quality of water that are excluded from final data analysis are annotated and explained.