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Title: School Drinking Water Quality Testing, Monitoring, and Maintenance

Introduced by: Gerald D. Natzke, Jr., DO, for the Genesee County Delegation

Original Authors: Gerald Natzke, Jr., DO, and Lawrence Reynolds, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee D

House Action: **APPROVED**

Whereas, the Genesee County Medical Society is an association of physicians in Genesee County, whose mission it is to advocate on behalf of physicians and their patients and the people of Genesee County, and

Whereas, the Genesee County Medical Society has engaged in multiple discussions and reviewed detailed information regarding the state of the City of Flint’s water supply and its potential health impacts on all residents, and

Whereas, evidence-based research indicates that even a small amount of lead in a child’s body can cause serious health problems, and

Whereas, other studies have demonstrated lead’s compromising effects on child health, the immune system, and association with impairments in neurobehavioral factors such as a child’s learning skills, hearing, and self-regulatory ability resulting in delinquent behavior, and

Whereas, children may be more susceptible to the adverse health effects of chemical, physical, and biological hazards than adults, while having reduced immunity, immaturity of organs and functions than adults, and

Whereas, rapid growth and development can make children more vulnerable to the toxic effects of environmental hazards than adults, and

Whereas, during critical developmental stages, children spend much of their day within school environments, and

Whereas, the current action limit for lead in drinking water of 15 ppb is a regulatory measure, not a public health one, and

Whereas, research shows that there is no 100 percent "safe" level of lead in drinking water for school children, and

Whereas, the State of Michigan has committed to supporting the City of Flint in recovery from city-wide lead contamination of Flint’s water supply, providing resources and financial support to ensure water quality improvements, pipe replacement, healthcare, food resources, educational resources, job training and creation, and more, and

Whereas, these committed resources include the availability, distribution, and warehousing of bottled water purified by reverse osmosis for local schools, made possible through a public-private partnership between the State of Michigan and a coalition of national corporations, and

53 Whereas, the Genesee County Medical Society Board of Directors has recommended to the
54 State of Michigan that it continue to provide resources to ensure a robust protocol is both in place,
55 implemented and sustained, that ensures school building water quality is free of contaminants and
56 toxins, including lead and bacteria, and safe for the consumption of children at all times, prior to any
57 discontinuation of State of Michigan supported availability of bottled water purified by reverse
58 osmosis for school facilities and school children, and

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60 Whereas, the Genesee County Medical Society Board of Directors recommends the State of
61 Michigan, its Department of Environmental Quality, and its Department of Education collaborate with
62 the City of Flint, Flint Community Schools, School for the Deaf, and local private and charter schools to
63 develop a sustainable protocol to ensure school water safety that includes detailed water monitoring
64 and maintenance protocols and schedules, guidance on flushing of pipes and filter
65 replacement/maintenance as deemed necessary given the condition of the water system, technical
66 assistance, and both regulatory and independent oversight to ensure such protocols are sustained by
67 associated state, local, and school system entities, and

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69 Whereas, there are currently no regulations in this state or the nation requiring testing of
70 school water for lead, copper, and other metals as well as biological contaminants, and

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72 Whereas, all children, regardless of the state or community in which they reside, require
73 protection against metal, chemical and biological contamination in the water made available to them
74 in schools; therefore be it

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76 RESOLVED: That MSMS engage the State of Michigan to develop comprehensive rules for
77 water testing, flushing, monitoring, and filtration, oversight and remediation for schools and school
78 districts in Michigan; and be it further

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80 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our
81 AMA to pursue updating of the regulation of water in schools consistent with the process outlined for
82 the State of Michigan; and be it further

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84 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our
85 AMA to pursue changes to the federal lead and copper rules, recognizing that there is no safe level of
86 metal contaminants in water.

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89 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

Relevant MSMS Policy:

School Safety Inspections

MSMS supports regular inspection of all school buildings for health and safety violations, to be conducted by the local health departments and overseen by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services or an appropriate governing body. This would include but not be limited to inspection of: malfunctioning heating systems, unsafe water contamination, toxic mold, structural hazards (i.e., falling ceiling tiles, unsafe flooring), rodent and insect infestations. This also includes the need for the appropriate regulatory body to enforce the timely correction of these health and safety violations by either the school district in question or the state of Michigan, in order to protect the health and wellness of children in schools. (Res87-16)

Lead Free Childcare Facilities

MSMS supports the concept of all Michigan childcare facilities having lead free environments. (Board Action Report #8, 1994 HOD, re Res67-93A)

Relevant AMA Policy:

Safe Drinking Water H-135.928

Our AMA supports updates to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule as well as other state and federal laws to eliminate exposure to lead through drinking water by:

- (1) Removing, in a timely manner, lead service lines and other leaded plumbing materials that come into contact with drinking water;
- (2) Requiring public water systems to establish a mechanism for consumers to access information on lead service line locations;
- (3) Informing consumers about the health-risks of partial lead service line replacement;
- (4) Requiring the inclusion of schools, licensed daycare, and health care settings among the sites routinely tested by municipal water quality assurance systems;
- (5) Improving public access to testing data on water lead levels by requiring testing results from public water systems to be posted on a publicly available website in a reasonable timeframe thereby allowing consumers to take precautions to protect their health;
- (6) Establishing more robust and frequent public education efforts and outreach to consumers that have lead service lines, including vulnerable populations;
- (7) Requiring public water systems to notify public health agencies and health care providers when local water samples test above the action level for lead; and
- 8) Seeking to shorten and streamline the compliance deadline requirements in the Safe Drinking Water Act.