

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL DRS45225-MHa-66

Short Title: 2021 Safe Drinking Water Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Batch, Salvador, and deViere (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROTECT NORTH CAROLINA CITIZENS FROM HARMFUL TOXINS IN  
3 DRINKING WATER BY REQUIRING THE COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH TO  
4 ESTABLISH MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVELS FOR CHEMICALS THAT ARE  
5 PROBABLE OR KNOWN CARCINOGENS OR ARE OTHERWISE TOXIC.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Commission for Public Health shall, no later than October 15,  
8 2021:

- 9 (1) Commence rulemaking to establish maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), as  
10 that term is defined under G.S. 130A-313, for probable or known carcinogens  
11 and other toxic chemicals that are likely to pose a substantial hazard to public  
12 health. At a minimum, the Commission shall establish MCLs for all of the  
13 following contaminants:  
14 a. Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).  
15 b. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).  
16 c. Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).  
17 d. Hexavalent chromium (chromium-6).  
18 e. 1,4-Dioxane.  
19 (2) For any other contaminants for which at least two other states have set MCLs  
20 or issued guidance, the Commission shall consider establishment of MCLs for  
21 such contaminants.

22 **SECTION 1.(b)** In the course of establishing MCLs as required by subsection (a) of  
23 this section, the Commission shall:

- 24 (1) Review MCLs adopted by other states, the studies and scientific evidence  
25 reviewed by those states, material in the Agency for Toxic Substances and  
26 Disease Registry, and the latest peer-reviewed science and independent or  
27 government agency studies on appropriate MCLs for such contaminants.  
28 (2) Adopt MCLs protective of public health, including vulnerable subpopulations  
29 such as pregnant and nursing mothers, infants, and children, which state  
30 MCLs shall not exceed any MCL or health advisory established by the United  
31 States Environmental Protection Agency.

32 **SECTION 2.** The Commission for Public Health shall annually review the latest  
33 peer-reviewed science and independent or government agency studies and undertake additional  
34 rulemaking, as necessary to establish or revise MCLs for contaminants that are likely to pose a  
35 substantial threat to public health.



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1                   **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
2 Health and Human Services the sum of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) in recurring funds for the  
3 2021-2022 fiscal year to carry out the requirements set forth in this act. The Department may  
4 establish up to 37 FTE positions with the funds provided by this section.

5                   **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.