

# WATER QUALITY, AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY BILLS LEGISLATION (2017-18)



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
STEPHANIE CHANG

## Water Quality

### **House Bill 4125** (Phelps)

Lead and Copper  
Action Level

Establishes criteria for the action level or engagement of state departments as it relates to the Lead and Copper Rule.

### **HB 4124** (Neeley)

Program for Schools and  
Child Day Care

Establishes water testing and interventions for schools and child day care centers, as well as repair and replacement of sources of lead contamination.

### **HB 4120** (Zemke) **HB 4372, 4378, 4379** (Kosowski)

Water Quality Testing

Requires water quality testing at regular intervals for schools, colleges, universities, nonpublic schools and hospitals.

### **HB 4206** (Neeley)

Pre-Flushing

Stipulates that the DEQ and all water authorities must be compliant with EPA guidelines and mandates that procedurally no entity, including the DEQ, will be permitted to use pre-flushing as a water sample collecting method.

### **HB 4179** (Hughes)

Loans to Local  
Government

Allows the Drinking Water Revolving Fund to give out low-interest loans to local governments to replace lead service lines.

### **HB 4175** (Kosowski)

Drinking Water Loan Fund

Creates the Drinking Water Emergency Loan Fund, which would allow for the owner or operator of a public water supply to apply for emergency funding for remedial purposes if it is found there is a threat of contamination to its drinking water.



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- HB 4339 (Kosowski)** Updates the definition of what constitutes “lead free” for purposes of pipes and pipe fittings. This legislation brings the definition in line with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act language. Currently, the statute allows for pipes and pipe fittings to contain up to 8 percent lead. This bill reduces that amount to 0.25 percent.
- Lead-Free Pipes/Fittings

## Citizen Oversight and Transparency

- HB 4201 (Neeley)** Restores a gubernatorial-appointed citizen oversight commission on water quality.  
**HB 4214 (Phelps)**
- MDEQ Citizen Oversight Commissions
- HB 4375 (Neeley)** Establishes a Water Ombudsman to advocate for residents throughout the state concerning water-related issues.
- Water Ombudsman
- HB 4121 (Chang)** Increases transparency by requiring water providers to submit an annual report to DHHS regarding water rates and how they were determined, along with information about shut-offs in the previous year.
- Rate Transparency

## Water Billing and Rates

- HB 4393 (Chang)** Institutes shut-off protections by creating categories of individuals protected from shut-offs (seniors, families with young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities) and providing for clearer notices about potential shut-offs.
- Shut-Off Protections
- HB 4392 (Hammoud)** Grants the Michigan Public Service Commission the power and jurisdiction to regulate rates, fares, fees and charges of any water or sewer authority in the state. According to a Legislative Service Bureau research memo from 2015, water utilities fall under the purview of 45 other state public service commissions.
- Regulation of Water Rates by MPSC



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**HB 4394 (Chang)** Affordability  
Addresses the water rate structure that unduly burdens low-income residents by amending the Social Welfare Act to create a residential water affordability program within DHHS in order to ensure that water bills are based on household income.

**HB 4389 (Garrett)**  
**HB 4390 (Chang)** Decriminalization  
Decriminalizes the act of re-connecting water service (because of a shut-off due to inability to pay) from a five-year felony to a civil infraction for a first or second offense and a misdemeanor for the third offense.

**HB 4388 (Yanez)** Water Meters  
Requires that a provider shall not make water or sewerage service to a residential customer contingent on the installation of an advanced meter or use of an advanced meter function.

**HB 4712 (Garrett)** Billing  
Allows some customers, who have not received a water bill by ten days after the end of the billing period, to no longer be responsible for paying that bill if he or she contacted the department in writing twice and the department did not respond within 30 days.

## Access to Water

**HB 4360 (Canfield)** Water Access  
Requires access points for safe drinking water be available in places where residents are not supplied municipal water hook-ups.

**HB 4391 (Hammoud)** Michigan Access and Affordable Water Act  
Creates the "Accessible and Affordable Water Act," which would require that all state departments and agencies employ all reasonable means to adopt certain policies to ensure that water is affordable and accessible as long as those policies do not affect eligibility for federal funds.

## Other

**HB 4289 (Phelps)**  
**HB 4076 (Kesto)** Data Manipulation  
Criminalizes and creates sentencing guidelines for the manipulation of data.