

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 18, 2001

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 460**

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**Introduced by Senator Scott**  
*(Coauthor: Assembly Member Frommer)*

February 22, 2001

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An act to add Sections 116369 and 116369.5 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 460, as amended, Scott. Public health: drinking water: chromium VI investigation.

Existing law requires the department to be responsible for ensuring that all public water systems are operated in compliance with both federal and state law, and the department is directed to enforce the law for all public water systems.

Existing law requires the department to determine the levels of hexavalent chromium (chromium VI) in the drinking water which is supplied by the public water systems in specified locations. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment is also required to assess and determine the exposures risks to the public due to the levels of chromium VI present in the public drinking water systems.

This bill would require the State Department of Health Services, in conjunction with State Water Resources Control Board, to investigate various technologies that remove chromium VI from drinking water and conduct various testing models that appear to be promising technologies to remove chromium VI from the drinking water supply.

This bill would also require the department to maintain reports of detection levels and other specific information of related to chromium

VI on the Internet and the report would be required to be updated monthly.

This bill would appropriate the sum of \$15,000,000 from the General Fund to the State Department of Health Services for the purpose of conducting investigations into the various technologies that remove chromium VI from drinking water.

Vote: <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the  
2 following:

3 (a) Last year the Office of Health Hazard Assessment adopted  
4 a public health goal for chromium VI of ~~0.2 parts per billion~~ of 2.5  
5 parts per billion. This public health goal was based on the assumed  
6 oral carcinogenicity of chromium VI.

7 (b) The body of science on the health effects of chromium VI,  
8 when orally ingested, is fast growing but many questions about the  
9 specific health effects of chromium VI and the level of ingestion  
10 at which adverse health effects are experienced remain  
11 unanswered. However, available science strongly suggests that  
12 humans who ingest chromium VI experience adverse health  
13 effects.

14 (c) In October of 2000, a joint hearing was held with the Senate  
15 Health and Human Services and Natural Resources and Wildlife  
16 Committee on the “Health Effects of Chromium VI  
17 Contamination of Drinking Water.”

18 (d) During the October hearing, both the state’s experts and  
19 managers of many of southern California’s water districts agreed  
20 that there was no known cost-effective method of removing  
21 chromium VI from drinking water supplies.

22 (e) Since the October hearing, it has been learned that there are  
23 a number of organizations that are developing technologies and  
24 processes that could be used to remove chromium VI from  
25 drinking water.

26 (f) Therefore, the Legislature declares that it would be prudent  
27 for the state to investigate methods of chromium VI removal from  
28 drinking water in order to protect the public health.



1 SEC. 2. Section 116369 is added to the Health and Safety  
2 Code, to read:

3 116369. (a) The State Department of Health Services shall  
4 conduct at least one demonstration project in northern California  
5 and one demonstration project in southern California.

6 (b) The demonstration projects consist of testing various  
7 technologies and investigative methods to remove chromium VI  
8 from drinking water supplies.

9 SEC. 3. Section 116369.5 is added to the Health and Safety  
10 Code, to read:

11 116369.5. (a) The department shall maintain a report on  
12 chromium VI detections and levels determined by monitoring as  
13 mandated pursuant to Section 64450 of Title 22 of the California  
14 Code of Regulations, the Special Monitoring Requirements for  
15 Unregulated Chemicals, through its Internet website. This report  
16 shall be updated as new detections are reported to the department  
17 and no less than once a month.

18 (b) The report shall include, but is not limited to:

19 (1) The system and source name from which the detection was  
20 made.

21 (2) The number of detections made.

22 (3) The dates detections or samples were made.

23 (4) The chromium VI detections level reported expressed in  
24 ~~µg/L~~ ug/L (micrograms per liter). If a range is reported that range  
25 shall be included in the report.

26 (c) The report shall list the detections by county of origin.

27 (d) The report shall be made available on the department's  
28 website.

29 SEC. 4. A sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) is  
30 appropriated from the General Fund to the State Department of  
31 Health Services to investigate various technologies that remove  
32 chromium VI from drinking water and to conduct or participate in  
33 bench-scale testing, pilot-scale testing, or field testing of  
34 promising technologies.

