

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2737

**Introduced by Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic
Materials (Assembly Members Alejo (Chair), Dahle (Vice Chair),
Bloom, Donnelly, Stone, and Ting)**

February 26, 2014

An act to add Section 116327 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to safe drinking water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2737, as amended, Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials. Safe drinking water.

Existing law, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, enacts provisions governing drinking water quality, and requires the State Department of Public Health ensure that all public water systems, as defined, are operated in compliance with the act. Among other things, the act requires the department to adopt primary drinking water standards for contaminants in drinking water, as specified. Existing law also authorizes the department to fund improvements and expansions of small community water systems and to give priority to funding projects in disadvantaged communities.

This bill would require the department to develop and implement a ~~pilot project in the Counties of Fresno, Imperial, and Monterey~~ *pilot projects in the geographical areas known as Salinas Valley, Tulare Lake Basin, and Coachella Valley* to collect data to determine the schools and communities in each county, particularly those located in economically disadvantaged areas, in which high levels of arsenic or nitrate contamination have been detected in the drinking water, and any

other data or information necessary to develop regulations to implement effective solutions to contamination of the drinking water, including regulations governing water treatment devices. The bill would also require the department to work cooperatively with community-based nonprofit organizations to develop and implement effective interim and long-term solutions designed to ensure safe drinking water in those communities, and to provide technical assistance to those organizations to improve drinking water.

The bill would require the pilot projects to be in effect for a minimum of 3 years. The bill would require the department, upon completion of the pilot projects, to submit a report to the Legislature on the results of the pilot projects. The bill would require the pilot projects to include specified elements, including consideration of the use of point-of-use or point-of-entry water treatment systems based on cost and system effectiveness.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 116327 is added to the Health and Safety
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 116327. The department shall develop and implement a pilot
- 4 ~~project in the Counties of Fresno, Imperial, and Monterey~~ *projects*
- 5 *in the geographical areas known as Salinas Valley, Tulare Lake*
- 6 *Basin, and Coachella Valley, to do all of the following:*
- 7 (a) Collect data to determine the schools and communities in
- 8 each county, particularly those located in economically
- 9 disadvantaged areas, in which high levels of arsenic or nitrate
- 10 contamination have been detected in the drinking water, and any
- 11 other data or information necessary to develop regulations to
- 12 implement effective solutions to contamination of the drinking
- 13 water, including regulations governing water treatment devices.
- 14 (b) Work cooperatively with community-based nonprofit
- 15 organizations to develop and implement effective interim and
- 16 long-term solutions designed to ensure safe drinking water in those
- 17 communities.
- 18 (c) Provide technical assistance to community-based nonprofit
- 19 organizations to improve drinking water.

1 *(d) The pilot projects shall be in effect for a minimum of three*
2 *years. Upon completion of the pilot projects, the department shall*
3 *submit a report to the Legislature on the results of the pilot*
4 *projects. The report shall be submitted in compliance with Section*
5 *9795 of the Government Code. The pilot projects shall do all of*
6 *the following:*

7 *(1) Include installation costs as well as operations and*
8 *maintenance costs for a minimum of three years.*

9 *(2) Consider the use of point-of-use or point-of-entry water*
10 *treatment systems based on cost and system effectiveness.*

11 *(3) Provide technical assistance to community-based nonprofit*
12 *organizations to improve drinking water.*