

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 1119

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H.P. 783

House of Representatives, March 21, 2017

### **An Act To Ensure Safe Drinking Water in Public Buildings**

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BROOKS of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CARDONE of Bangor, DEVIN of Newcastle, GOLDEN of Lewiston, HICKMAN of Winthrop, KORNFELD of Bangor, NADEAU of Winslow, TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2604**, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 751, §4, is amended to read:

3 **§2604. Public buildings, sampling and examination of water**

4 Any ~~school, which~~ public building that takes water from a source other than a public  
5 water system and uses such water for drinking or culinary purposes, shall submit samples  
6 of such water to the department for analysis at least once during each ~~school~~ year. ~~Such~~  
7 The samples shall must be analyzed by the department. If the water is found to violate the  
8 state primary drinking water regulations, the department shall issue an order prohibiting  
9 the use of the water for drinking or culinary purposes ~~by the school~~, which order ~~shall~~  
10 must remain in force until the water conforms to the state primary drinking water  
11 regulations. The department shall provide results of any analysis performed under this  
12 section to the Department of Environmental Protection. The Department of  
13 Environmental Protection shall make the results available on a publicly accessible  
14 website maintained and updated by the Department of Environmental Protection. For the  
15 purposes of this section, "public building" means any building or structure operated or  
16 maintained for use by the general public, including, but not limited to, buildings used for  
17 state, municipal or county purposes; education; health care, a residential care nursing  
18 home or any facility licensed by the department under section 1811; public assembly; a  
19 hotel, motel, inn or rooming or lodging house; or a restaurant.

20 In addition to any other requirement in this chapter that applies to a public building  
21 that is regulated as a public water system, the requirements of this section apply to a  
22 public building that takes water from a public water system and uses that water for  
23 drinking or culinary purposes if the public building is more than 10 years old.

24 Violation of this section ~~shall~~ is, on conviction, ~~be~~ punishable by a fine of not more  
25 than \$500.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 Current law requires schools that take drinking water from sources other than public  
28 water systems to have that water tested. This bill expands this requirement to include all  
29 public buildings that take water from a source other than a public water system. This bill  
30 requires public buildings that take drinking water from public water systems to have the  
31 same tests performed on that water, except that public buildings less than 10 years old are  
32 exempt from this requirement. Under the bill, the Department of Health and Human  
33 Services must provide test results to the Department of Environmental Protection. After  
34 receiving the results, the Department of Environmental Protection must make the results  
35 available on the department's publicly accessible website.