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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 24

- 01/04/2023 Authored by Jordan; Hassan; Hansen, R.; Olson, L.; Fischer and others
- 01/23/2023 The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Economic Development Finance and Policy
- 02/06/2023 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Health Finance and Policy
- 02/06/2023 Adoption of Report: Re-referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to capital investment; modifying authority to ensure safe drinking water;

1.3 modifying provisions of drinking water revolving fund; establishing grant program

1.4 to replace lead drinking water service lines; establishing grant program for mapping

1.5 lead service lines; requiring report; appropriating money; amending Minnesota

1.6 Statutes 2022, sections 144.383; 446A.081, subdivisions 8, 9; proposing coding

1.7 for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 446A.

1.8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.9 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 144.383, is amended to read:

1.10 **144.383 AUTHORITY OF COMMISSIONER.**

1.11 In order to insure safe drinking water in all public water supplies, the commissioner has

1.12 the following powers:

1.13 (a) To approve the site, design, and construction and alteration of all public water supplies

1.14 and, for community and nontransient noncommunity water systems as defined in Code of

1.15 Federal Regulations, title 40, section 141.2, to approve documentation that demonstrates

1.16 the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of those systems to comply with rules

1.17 adopted under this section;

1.18 (b) To enter the premises of a public water supply, or part thereof, to inspect the facilities

1.19 and records kept pursuant to rules promulgated by the commissioner, to conduct sanitary

1.20 surveys and investigate the standard of operation and service delivered by public water

1.21 supplies;

1.22 (c) To contract with community health boards as defined in section 145A.02, subdivision

1.23 5, for routine surveys, inspections, and testing of public water supply quality;

2.1 (d) To develop an emergency plan to protect the public when a decline in water quality
2.2 or quantity creates a serious health risk, and to issue emergency orders if a health risk is
2.3 imminent;

2.4 (e) To promulgate rules, pursuant to chapter 14 but no less stringent than federal
2.5 regulation, which may include the granting of variances and exemptions; and

2.6 (f) To maintain an asset management database of community public water supply systems,
2.7 provide technical assistance to community systems, and ensure the lead service line inventory
2.8 data is accessible to the public with relevant educational materials about health risks related
2.9 to lead and ways to reduce exposure.

2.10 Sec. 2. **[446A.077] LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT; GRANT PROGRAM.**

2.11 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The authority must establish a program to replace lead
2.12 drinking water service lines in the state by 2033 and must provide grants to entities for this
2.13 purpose. The program must be structured to maximize use of federal funds available for the
2.14 purposes described in subdivision 3.

2.15 Subd. 2. **Eligible recipients.** (a) The following are eligible recipients of grants under
2.16 this section:

2.17 (1) community public water suppliers of a community water system as defined in Code
2.18 of Federal Regulations, title 40, section 141.2, as amended;

2.19 (2) municipalities;

2.20 (3) suppliers of other residential drinking water systems; and

2.21 (4) any applicant eligible for loans and grants under the federal Safe Drinking Water
2.22 Act.

2.23 (b) All eligible recipients as part of the grant application process must apply to be listed
2.24 on the Department of Health project priority list.

2.25 Subd. 3. **Eligible uses.** (a) An eligible recipient may use a grant provided under this
2.26 program for:

2.27 (1) removing and replacing lead drinking water service lines;

2.28 (2) repaying debt incurred for the purposes described in clauses (1), (3), and (4);

2.29 (3) providing information to residents on the benefits of removing lead service lines; or

2.30 (4) performing necessary construction activities required for and associated with removing
2.31 and replacing lead service lines.

3.1 (b) Grant money used for removing and replacing lead drinking water service lines under
3.2 paragraph (a), clause (1), must pay for 100 percent of the cost of replacing the privately
3.3 owned portions of those lines but may pay for not more than 50 percent of the cost of
3.4 replacing the publicly owned portions of those lines.

3.5 Subd. 4. **Grant priorities.** In prioritizing the expenditure of grant money received under
3.6 this section, the authority must give priority to applications that use the money as part of a
3.7 plan to remove all lead service lines within a municipality or residential drinking water
3.8 system. A plan should include:

3.9 (1) a description of how the recipient will maximize the number of property owners with
3.10 privately owned portions of lead lines that will participate in the removal and replacement,
3.11 including lower-income residents and those from other disadvantaged communities;

3.12 (2) a description of how the recipient will coordinate the removal of the publicly owned
3.13 and privately owned portions of the lead lines to maximize efficient use of money;

3.14 (3) a description of how the recipient will minimize the number of lead service lines
3.15 that are only partially removed; and

3.16 (4) a description of how equity for disadvantaged groups was prioritized in designing
3.17 the plan.

3.18 Subd. 5. **Workforce plan.** Applicants who serve 50,000 service connections or more
3.19 must submit a workforce plan as part of their application. The workforce plan must include
3.20 a description of how the applicant will maximize the use of registered apprentices, along
3.21 with populations under-represented in the construction industry in the lead removal and
3.22 replacement work.

3.23 Subd. 6. **Reporting.** By August 1 each year, the authority must report to the chairs and
3.24 ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over
3.25 environment and natural resources policy and finance on the operation of the program during
3.26 the previous fiscal year.

3.27 Subd. 7. **Prevailing wage.** Laborers and mechanics performing work on a project funded
3.28 by a grant under this section, including removing and replacing lead drinking water service
3.29 lines and installing replacement drinking water service lines, must be paid the prevailing
3.30 wage rate for the work as defined in section 177.42, subdivision 6. The project is subject
3.31 to the requirements and enforcement provisions of sections 177.27, 177.30, 177.32, 177.41
3.32 to 177.435, and 177.45.

4.1 Subd. 8. **General fund appropriation.** \$80,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 through fiscal
4.2 year 2033 is appropriated from the general fund to the authority to provide grants according
4.3 to this section. This subdivision expires June 30, 2033.

4.4 Sec. 3. [446A.078] LEAD LINE REMOVAL GOAL.

4.5 It is the goal of the state of Minnesota to remove all lead service lines in public drinking
4.6 water systems by 2033.

4.7 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 446A.081, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

4.8 Subd. 8. **Loan conditions.** (a) When making loans from the drinking water revolving
4.9 fund, the authority shall comply with the conditions of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act,
4.10 including the criteria in this subdivision.

4.11 (b) Loans must be made at or below market interest rates, including zero interest loans,
4.12 for terms not to exceed those allowed under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

4.13 (c) The annual principal and interest payments must begin no later than one year after
4.14 completion of the project. Loans must be amortized no later than 20 years after project
4.15 completion, unless the recipient's average annual residential drinking water system cost
4.16 after completion of the project would exceed 1.2 percent of median household income in
4.17 the recipient governmental unit or entity, in which case the loan must be fully amortized
4.18 no later than 30 years after project completion.

4.19 (d) A loan recipient must identify and establish a dedicated source of revenue for
4.20 repayment of the loan, and provide for a source of revenue to properly operate, maintain,
4.21 and repair the water system.

4.22 (e) The fund must be credited with all payments of principal and interest on all loans,
4.23 except the costs as permitted under section 446A.04, subdivision 5, paragraph (a).

4.24 (f) A loan may not be used to pay operating expenses or current obligations, unless
4.25 specifically allowed by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

4.26 (g) A loan made by the authority must be secured by notes or bonds of the governmental
4.27 unit and collateral to be determined by the authority for private borrowers.

4.28 (h) Notwithstanding Minnesota Rules, part 7380.0272, the interest rate for loans made
4.29 to replace lead service lines is zero percent.

5.1 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 446A.081, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

5.2 Subd. 9. **Other uses of fund.** (a) The drinking water revolving loan fund may be used
5.3 as provided in the act, including the following uses:

5.4 (1) to buy or refinance the debt obligations, at or below market rates, of public water
5.5 systems for drinking water systems, where the debt was incurred after the date of enactment
5.6 of the act, for the purposes of construction of the necessary improvements to comply with
5.7 the national primary drinking water regulations under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act;

5.8 (2) to purchase or guarantee insurance for local obligations to improve credit market
5.9 access or reduce interest rates;

5.10 (3) to provide a source of revenue or security for the payment of principal and interest
5.11 on revenue or general obligation bonds issued by the authority if the bond proceeds are
5.12 deposited in the fund;

5.13 (4) to provide loans or loan guarantees for similar revolving funds established by a
5.14 governmental unit or state agency;

5.15 (5) to earn interest on fund accounts;

5.16 (6) to pay the reasonable costs incurred by the authority, the Department of Employment
5.17 and Economic Development, and the Department of Health for conducting activities as
5.18 authorized and required under the act up to the limits authorized under the act;

5.19 (7) to develop and administer programs for water system supervision, source water
5.20 protection, and related programs required under the act;

5.21 (8) to provide principal forgiveness or grants to the extent permitted under the federal
5.22 Safe Drinking Water Act and other federal law, based on the criteria and requirements
5.23 established for drinking water projects under the water infrastructure funding program under
5.24 section 446A.072;

5.25 (9) to provide loans, principal forgiveness or grants to the extent permitted under the
5.26 federal Safe Drinking Water Act and other federal law to address green infrastructure, water
5.27 or energy efficiency improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities;

5.28 (10) to provide principal forgiveness, or grants for 80 percent of project costs up to a
5.29 maximum of \$100,000 for projects needed to comply with national primary drinking water
5.30 standards for an existing nonmunicipal community public water system; ~~and~~

5.31 (11) to provide principal forgiveness or grants to the extent permitted under the federal
5.32 Safe Drinking Water Act and other federal laws ~~for 50 percent of the project costs up to a~~

6.1 ~~maximum of \$250,000~~ for projects to replace the privately owned portion of drinking water
6.2 lead service lines; and

6.3 (12) to provide principal forgiveness or grants to the extent permitted under the federal
6.4 Safe Drinking Water Act and other federal laws for 50 percent of project costs up to a
6.5 maximum of \$3,000,000 for projects to address emerging contaminants in drinking water
6.6 as defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

6.7 (b) Principal forgiveness or grants provided under paragraph (a), clause (9), may not
6.8 exceed 25 percent of the eligible project costs as determined by the Department of Health
6.9 for project components directly related to green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency
6.10 improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities, up to a maximum of
6.11 \$1,000,000.

6.12 Sec. 6. **LEAD SERVICE LINE MAPPING GRANTS.**

6.13 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of health must establish a grant
6.14 program to provide financial assistance to municipalities for producing an inventory of
6.15 publicly and privately owned lead service lines within their jurisdiction.

6.16 Subd. 2. **Eligible uses.** A municipality may use grant money under this section for:

6.17 (1) surveying households to determine the material of their water service line;

6.18 (2) creating publicly available databases or visualizations of lead service lines; and

6.19 (3) complying with the lead service line inventory requirements of the federal
6.20 Environmental Protection Agency's lead and copper rule.

6.21 Subd. 3. **Appropriation.** \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$10,000,000 in fiscal year
6.22 2025 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of health to provide grants
6.23 to municipalities for producing an inventory of publicly and privately owned lead service
6.24 lines within their jurisdiction. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June
6.25 30, 2026.

6.26 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2023.