2023 -- S 0724 SUBSTITUTE A AS AMENDED

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T
RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- PFAS IN DRINKING WATER, GROUNDWATER, AND SURFACE WATER

Introduced By: Senator Walter S. Felag

Date Introduced: March 22, 2023

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services
(Dept. of Health)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Sections 46-32-2 and 46-32-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 46-32 entitled "PFAS in Drinking Water, Groundwater, and Surface Waters" are hereby amended to read as follows:

46-32-2. Interim drinking water standard and testing requirements.

(a) As used in this chapter, “PFAS contaminants” means perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), and perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHpA), and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA).

(b) On or before July 1, 2023, all public water supply systems in the state as defined by § 46-13-2, except transient, non-community water systems as defined by the department of health in 216-RICR-50-05-1 as may be amended, shall conduct monitoring for the presence of PFAS contaminants in drinking water supplied by the system. Regular monitoring shall be conducted as follows until adoption of maximum contaminant level rules pursuant to § 46-32-4:

(1) If monitoring results detect the presence of any PFAS contaminants individually or in combination in excess of the interim drinking water standard level of twenty parts per trillion (20 ppt), the public water supply system shall conduct continued quarterly monitoring.

(2) If monitoring results detect the presence of any PFAS contaminants individually or in combination at a level equal to or below the interim drinking water standard level of twenty parts per trillion (20 ppt), the public water supply system shall conduct continued monitoring annually.
(3) If monitoring results do not detect the presence of any PFAS contaminants, the public water supply system shall conduct continued monitoring every two (2) years.

(c) If monitoring results under subsection (b) of this section confirm the presence of any PFAS contaminants individually or in combination in excess of the interim drinking water standard level of twenty parts per trillion (20 ppt), the department of health shall require monitoring in a manner consistent with applicable regulations governing synthetic organic contaminants, including but not limited to, requiring a confirmation sample, prior to directing the public water supply system to implement treatment or other remedy to reduce the levels of PFAS contaminants in the drinking water of the public water supply system below the interim drinking water standard level.

(d) On or before July 1, 2023, if the PFAS contaminants exceed the level of twenty parts per trillion (20 ppt), the public water supply system shall provide potable water through other means to all customers or users of the system. The requirement for a public water supply system to provide potable water to customers and users of the system through other means shall cease when monitoring results indicate that the levels of PFAS contaminants in the drinking water of the public water supply system are below the interim drinking water standard level of twenty parts per trillion (20 ppt). If the PFAs contaminants exceed the interim drinking water standard, the department shall, within one-hundred and eighty (180) days of being notified of the exceedance, draft and enter into a consent agreement with a public water supply system requiring dates for submittal of construction plans and specifications, prepared and stamped by a professional engineer registered in accordance with the provisions of chapter 8 of title 5 to the department of health, to implement treatment or other remedy to reduce the levels of PFAS contaminants in the drinking water of the public water supply system to at or below the interim drinking water standard level. If the department has not approved a consent agreement within one hundred eighty (180) days, the director of the department will take any and all action necessary to obtain compliance in accordance with subsection (e) of this section.

(e) The director of the department of health is authorized to enforce the requirements of this chapter in accordance with the provisions of chapter 13 of this title and violations will be subject to the penalties imposed pursuant to § 46-13-16. A person may contest or appeal a decision of the director, a penalty imposed for violation, or the fact of violation pursuant to the provisions of chapter 35 of title 42 (the “administrative procedures act”).


If the director of the department of health decides to publish a notice pursuant to the provisions of § 46-32-4(b)(1) then on or before June 1, 2024, the director of the department of health shall, pursuant to this section, file under § 42-35-4 a final rule with the secretary of state.
regarding adoption of the interim drinking water standard level of twenty parts per trillion (20 ppt) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) as a maximum contaminant level (MCL). Upon the effective date of the final rule, the drinking water monitoring provisions of § 46-32-2 may be suspended, modified, or superseded by the provisions of the final rules rule and the maximum contaminant level, as specified pursuant to § 46-32-4, shall apply to § 46-32-2(d).

SECTION 2. Section 23-18.13-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-18.13 entitled “Toxic Packaging Reduction Act” is hereby amended to read as follows:


(a) No package or packaging component shall be offered for sale or for promotional purposes by its manufacturer or distributor in the state, which includes, in the package itself or in any packaging component, inks, dyes, pigments, adhesives, stabilizers, or any other additives, any lead, cadmium, mercury, or hexavalent chromium that has been intentionally introduced as an element during manufacturing or distribution as opposed to the incidental presence of any of these elements.

(b) No product shall be offered for sale or for promotional purposes by its manufacturer or distributor in the state in a package which includes, in the package itself or in any of its packaging components, inks, dyes, pigments, adhesives, stabilizers, or any other additives, any lead, cadmium, mercury, or hexavalent chromium that has been intentionally introduced as an element during manufacturing or distribution as opposed to the incidental presence of any of these elements.

(c) The sum on the concentration levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, and hexavalent chromium present in any package or packaging component shall not exceed 100 parts per million by weight (0.01%).

(d) Effective January 1, 2024 July 31, 2024, no food package to which PFAS have been intentionally introduced during manufacturing or distribution in any amount shall be offered for sale or for promotional purposes by its manufacturer or distributor in the state.

(e) No substitute material used to replace a chemical regulated by this chapter in a package or packaging component may be used in a quantity or manner that creates a hazard as great as or greater than the hazard created by the chemical regulated by this act. The certificate of compliance required by § 23-18.13-6 shall require an assurance to this effect.

(f) Interstate clearinghouse. The department is authorized to participate in the establishment and implementation of a regional or national, multi-state clearinghouse to assist in carrying out the requirements of this chapter and to help coordinate reviews of the regulatory
applicability, certificates of compliance, education and outreach activities, and any other related functions. The clearinghouse may also maintain reports on the effectiveness of the program, certificates of analysis and compliance for product packaging.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.
This act would provide that water supply systems that have PFAS contaminants that exceed the interim drinking water standard be required to enter into a consent agreement with department of health to implement treatment to reduce the levels of PFAS contaminants.

This act would take effect upon passage.