

2026 -- H 7872

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

Introduced By: Representatives Kennedy, Cotter, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 46-13-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 46-13 entitled "Public
2 Drinking Water Supply" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **46-13-10. Correction of unsafe conditions.**

4 When the water from a public water supply system is not safe, potable, or is subject to
5 contamination as determined by the director, the person maintaining the public water supply system
6 shall take immediate action to correct sanitary defects, improve operation, provide necessary water
7 treatment, or make any other changes or additions necessary to provide safe and potable water.
8 Failure to do so, within the time limits set by the director under the rules and regulations
9 promulgated by the department of health pursuant to § 46-13-18, and after the hearing provided by
10 § 46-13-12, shall result in a civil penalty not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).
11 Each day of non-compliance shall constitute a separate violation.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 46-13 of the General Laws entitled "Public Drinking Water Supply"
13 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

14 **46-13-23. Penalties for extended service interruptions.**

15 Any public water supplier that fails to restore continuous service to at least ninety percent
16 (90%) of affected customers within four (4) hours after an unplanned outage, unless caused by
17 force majeure, shall pay a civil penalty of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per customer for each
18 additional hour of delay, up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per customer, per day. Said fines shall
19 be deposited into the general fund and shall in no way limit recovery of other fines and recovered

1 [damages. The director of health may adjust or waive the civil penalty based on hardship, or](#)
2 [noncompliance for reasons beyond the reasonable control of the water supplier acting in good faith.](#)

3 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

- 1 This act would establish civil penalties for extended service interruptions by water
- 2 suppliers. These penalties would be in addition to other available remedies and damages.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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