



Fiscal Analyst: Justin Billingsley | Email: justin.billingsley@capitol.tn.gov | Phone: 615-741-2564

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits the addition of fluoride to a public water system by the supplier of water who owns, operates, or controls the public water system.

FISCAL IMPACT:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
EXPENDITURES	Mandatory
FY25-26 & Subsequent Years	(\$3,930,800)

Assumptions:

- Prohibiting the addition of fluoride to public water systems will result in a decrease in expenditures equal to the cost of purchasing fluoride.
- Public water systems are generally under the authority of a public or private utility district.
- The exact cost for all public water systems to procure fluoride is unknown.
- According to information from the Department of Health's website, in 2023, 88.32 percent of Tennesseans were served by community water systems in which water was fluoridated. For purposes of this fiscal analysis, this percentage is assumed to be reflective of fluoridation levels in 2024 and outlying years.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the estimated population of Tennessee as of July 1, 2024 was 7,227,750.
- An estimated 6,383,549 Tennesseans receive water from community water systems which add fluoride to its water supply ($7,227,750 \times 88.32\%$).
- According to the 2017 report *Navigating Legal Pathways to Rate-Funded Customer Assistance Programs*, published by the University of North Carolina, Environmental Finance Center, approximately 224,593 Tennesseans received their water supply from a private water system.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Tennessee in 2017 was approximately 6,715,000, therefore, the population increased approximately 7.64 percent from 2017 to 2024 [$(7,227,750 - 6,715,000) / 6,715,000$]; therefore, it is assumed that the population of Tennesseans receiving their water supply from a privately-owned water system is 241,752 ($224,593 \times 1.0764$).
- Therefore, approximately 6,141,797 Tennesseans ($6,383,549 - 241,752$) receive water from a public water system which fluoridates its water supply.
- According to the Texas Department of Health and Human Services, it costs approximately \$0.64 per person per year to fluoridate water.

- This legislation will result in a recurring annual decrease in expenditures of \$3,930,750 statewide to public water systems which add fluoride to the water supply (6,141,797 x \$0.64).
- This decrease in costs will not result in any subsequent decrease in rates paid by customers of such affected community water systems; therefore, no significant impact on revenue collected by local governments.
- This legislation is estimated to have no significant impact on the duties of public water systems throughout the state; therefore, this legislation is estimated to have no significant impact on staffing levels of any such systems.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bojan Savic, Executive Director