



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4732

by Rep. Marcus C. Evans, Jr.

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Lead-Safe Water for Families Act. Provides that the Department of Healthcare and Family Services shall establish and administer a program to provide lead-reducing water filters at no cost to Medicaid-eligible households with children or expectant mothers. Requires outreach, application procedures, and rulemaking. Requires annual reporting to the General Assembly. Declares findings and states the purpose of the Act. Defines terms.

LRB104 17906 BDA 33942 b

1 AN ACT concerning health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Lead-Safe Water for Families Act.

6 Section 5. Findings and purpose.

7 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

8 (1) Lead exposure poses serious health risks,
9 especially to children and pregnant women, including
10 developmental delays, learning difficulties, behavioral
11 problems, and adverse pregnancy outcomes.

12 (2) Lead can leach into drinking water from lead
13 service lines, plumbing fixtures, and solder in older
14 homes.

15 (3) Low-income families are disproportionately
16 affected by lead exposure due to older housing stock and
17 limited resources to address contamination.

18 (4) Point-of-use water filters certified to remove
19 lead provide an effective interim protection measure while
20 comprehensive infrastructure improvements are underway.

21 (b) The purpose of this Act is to provide free
22 lead-reducing water filters to Medicaid-eligible households
23 with children or expectant mothers to protect these vulnerable

1 populations from lead exposure through drinking water.

2 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

3 "Department" means the Department of Healthcare and Family
4 Services.

5 "Eligible household" means a household that:

6 (1) includes at least one child under 18 years of age
7 or an expectant mother; and

8 (2) includes at least one individual enrolled in
9 medical assistance under Article V of the Illinois Public
10 Aid Code.

11 "Expectant mother" means a woman who is pregnant.

12 "Lead-reducing water filter" means a point-of-use drinking
13 water filter or filtration system that is certified by NSF
14 International or another nationally recognized testing
15 organization to NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction or an
16 equivalent standard.

17 Section 15. Lead-reducing water filter program.

18 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall
19 establish and administer a program to provide lead-reducing
20 water filters at no cost to eligible households.

21 (b) The program shall provide:

22 (1) one lead-reducing water filter system per eligible
23 household; and

24 (2) replacement filters as needed for a period of at

1 least 2 years from initial installation, or as recommended
2 by the manufacturer for effective lead reduction.

3 (c) The Department may contract with one or more qualified
4 vendors to:

5 (1) procure lead-reducing water filters meeting the
6 requirements of this Act;

7 (2) distribute filters to eligible households;

8 (3) provide installation assistance or instructions;
9 and

10 (4) provide replacement filters to participating
11 households.

12 (d) The Department shall conduct outreach to inform
13 eligible households about the availability of lead-reducing
14 water filters under this program through:

15 (1) direct mailings to Medicaid enrollees;

16 (2) coordination with managed care organizations;

17 (3) partnerships with local health departments,
18 community organizations, and healthcare providers; and

19 (4) publication of program information on the
20 Department's website.

21 (e) The Department shall establish a simple application
22 and distribution process that minimizes administrative burden
23 on eligible households.

24 Section 20. Rulemaking. The Department shall adopt rules
25 necessary to implement this Act, including, but not limited

1 to, application procedures, verification of eligibility,
2 filter specifications and certification requirements,
3 distribution methods, replacement filter provisions, and
4 reporting requirements for contracted vendors.

5 Section 25. Reporting. No later than January 1, 2028, and
6 annually thereafter, the Department shall submit a report to
7 the General Assembly that includes the number of eligible
8 households served, the geographic distribution of
9 participating households, the number of filters and
10 replacement cartridges distributed, program costs, and any
11 recommendations for program improvements or expansion.