



HR0121

LRB101 10365 ALS 55471 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, There is no safe blood lead level identified for children, and even low levels have been shown to affect IQ, the ability to pay attention, and academic achievement; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Recent studies have suggested that low-level lead exposure in adults is associated with cardiovascular disease and other health conditions; higher levels exponentially increase that risk; and

6

7

8

9

WHEREAS, In October 2018, the Illinois Department of Public Health reported that more than 7,000 Illinois children had blood lead levels greater than the intervention level recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

10

11

12

13

14

WHEREAS, The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the State has more than 400,000 lead service lines, with an additional 1.5 million lines that may be leaded; and

15

16

17

18

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago required the use of lead service lines for pipes up to two inches until Congress banned their use in 1986; in the City of Chicago, there are an estimated 385,000 lead service lines, including unknown

19

20

21

1 materials that are likely to be lead; this is an amount that is
2 three times more than any other city in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, The Environmental Defense Fund reports that 53
4 communities in the United States have publicly set a goal to
5 eliminate lead service lines; 36 communities have taken the
6 initial steps toward replacement, and six communities have
7 completed replacement programs; and

8 WHEREAS, Lead service lines, the lead pipe that connects
9 the main under the street to a home, day care facility, or
10 other building, is the dominant source of lead in drinking
11 water for buildings that have these lines; and

12 WHEREAS, Lead service lines are commonly found with aging
13 water mains that need to be replaced or repaired, and those
14 activities have been shown to significantly increase lead in
15 drinking water if the lead service line is disturbed and not
16 fully replaced; and

17 WHEREAS, Such maintenance and repair programs, along with
18 the associated increased risk of lead exposure that results,
19 may disproportionately impact minority and low-income
20 residents, many of whom are already at a greater risk of lead
21 exposure from lead-based paint hazards and contaminated soil;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, In April of 2016, the American Water Works
2 Association, the professional society for drinking water
3 utilities, stated its support for replacing all lead service
4 lines over time as a broad societal commitment; and

5 WHEREAS, Any lead service line replacement plan must
6 address lead exposure risk in underserved communities; and

7 WHEREAS, When making decisions and setting priorities
8 regarding the identification, planning, and implementation of
9 lead service line replacement programs in underserved
10 communities, the input and inclusion of impacted residents and
11 community organizations must be included; and

12 WHEREAS, Many Illinois residents lack confidence in the
13 safety and quality of their drinking water; and

14 WHEREAS, The public deserves a concrete plan for the
15 elimination of lead service lines for drinking water;
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we urge every Illinois municipality that utilizes lead service
20 lines to develop a plan to minimize the risk of lead exposure

1 to its residents by developing a plan consisting of short and
2 long-term steps to fully eliminate lead pipes from its drinking
3 water systems; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the process of lead service line replacement
5 presents significant environmental justice concerns, and
6 municipal initiatives must service consumers in an equitable
7 manner without regard to income, race, or ethnicity; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That any plan for the removal of lead service
10 lines must prioritize reducing exposure to children and
11 appropriately address the needs of low-income and underserved
12 communities in particular; a plan should also identify and
13 develop opportunities to designate resources for the removal
14 and replacement of lead service lines, including within any
15 capitol improvement plan, relevant grant programs, and any
16 other available funding source.