

# MICHIGAN WATER IS A HUMAN RIGHT BILL PACKAGE SUMMARY

**House Bill 5101 (Plawecki)/Senate Bill 643 (Young): Michigan Human Right to Water Act** - Establishes that each individual in Michigan has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. *Status: Awaiting hearing in the House Committee on Local Government or Senate Government Operations Committee.*

**House Bill 5097 (Chang)/Senate Bill 678 (Young): Affordability** - Addresses the water rate structure that unduly burdens low income residents by amending the social welfare act to create a residential water affordability program within DHHS in order to ensure that water bills are based on household income. *Status: Awaiting hearing in House or Senate Committee on Local Government.*

**House Bill 5095/5096 (Chang/Garrett): Decriminalization** - Decriminalizes the act of re-connecting water service (because of a shut-off due to inability to pay) from a five year felony to a civil infraction for a first or second offense and a misdemeanor for the third offense. HB 5096 changes the statute; HB 5095 changes the sentencing guidelines. *Status: Awaiting hearing in the House Committee on Criminal Justice*

**House Bill 5094 (Neeley): Pre-flushing** - This bill stipulates that the DEQ and all water authorities must be compliant with EPA guidelines and it mandates that procedurally no entity including DEQ will be permitted to use pre-flushing as a water sample collecting method. *Status: Awaiting hearing in the House Committee on Local Government.*

**House Bill 5093 (Plawecki): Transparency** - Increases transparency by requiring water providers to submit an annual report to DHHS regarding water rates and how they were determined, along with information about shut-offs in the previous year. *Status: Awaiting hearing in the House Committee on Local Government.*

## BIPARTISAN ACTION

Although our state is the Great Lakes state and is surrounded by fresh water, Michigan residents continue to face a water crisis, and it is time to act.

On June 3, 2015, Representatives Sheldon Neeley, LaTanya Garrett, and Stephanie Chang convened a public hearing at the state capitol to hear testimony from Michiganders facing water shutoffs, contamination, and public health concerns.

A bipartisan group of Michigan lawmakers\* formed a workgroup to partner with stakeholders to develop legislation to address Michigan's water crisis. The workgroup has introduced part of a package of bills because they believe that water is a human right.

We need to protect the residents of Detroit, Highland Park, Flint and all Michigan communities by making sure each resident has the right to safe, affordable and accessible water.

*\*Reps. Canfield (R), Chang (D), Garrett (D), Neeley (D), and Plawecki (D)*

**House Bill 5110 (Garrett): Billing** – Allows some customers, who have not received a water bill by ten days after the end of the billing period, to no longer be responsible for paying that bill if s/he contacted the department in writing twice and the department did not respond within 30 days. *Status: Awaiting hearing in the House Committee on Local Government.*

**House Bill 5120 (Neeley): Public notification** - This bill address Tier II violations only. It stipulates that for Tier II water violations, the DEQ and responsible water authority have 72 hours from firmly identifying a Tier II water episode. Within that 72 hour window, the public must be notified. *Status: Awaiting hearing in the House Government Operations Committee.*

**House Bill 5122 (Chang)/Senate Bill 655 (Ananich): Shut-off protections** - Institutes shut-off protections by creating categories of individuals protected from shut-offs (seniors, families with young children, pregnant women, and people with disabilities) and providing for clearer notices about potential shutoffs. *Status: Awaiting hearing in the House Committee on Local Government or Senate Committee on Energy and Technology.*

**House Bill 5177 (Canfield): Water Access** – Requires access points for safe drinking water be available in places where residents are not supplied municipal water hook ups. *Status: Awaiting hearing in the House Committee on Local Government.*

**House Bill 5178 (Canfield): Continuous Billing** – This bill would require that each customer’s account for water or sewage services be billed on a regular basis, as determined by the city, regardless of whether their account is considered current or delinquent. *Status: Awaiting hearing in the House Committee on Local Government.*

**House Bill 5404-6 (Phelps/Neeley/Chang): MDEQ Citizen Oversight Commissions** – This bill package restores two gubernatorial-appointed citizen oversight commissions for air pollution and water quality *Status: Awaiting hearing in the House Committee Natural Resources.*

**House Bill 5459 (Phelps): Lead and Copper Action Level** – Establishes criteria for the action level or engagement of State Department as it relates to the Lead and Copper Rule. *Status: Awaiting hearing in the House Committee on Local Government.*

**House Bill 5461 (Neeley): Program for Schools and Child Day Care** – Establishes water testing and interventions for schools, child day care centers as well as repair and replacement of sources of lead contamination. *Status: Awaiting hearing in the House Committee on Local Government.*

**House Bill 5462 (Neeley): Water Ombudsman** – Establishes a Water Ombudsman to advocate for residents throughout the state concerning water related issues. *Status: Awaiting hearing in the House Committee on Natural Resources.*