

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 3049

**FISCAL
NOTE**

BY DELEGATES STAGGERS, ANGELUCCI, JENNINGS,

MAYNARD AND SUMMERS

[Introduced February 12, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §15-5-29, relating to public health; improving dissemination of boiled water
 3 advisories to affected communities through local health departments and local emergency
 4 management 911 answering points, and through text or voice alert mass notification
 5 systems.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

§15-5-29. Prompt local dissemination of boiled water advisories required.

1 (a) The Legislature finds that it is important for the health of the public that announcement
 2 of temporary contamination of a local water supply be made available to the affected public as
 3 promptly as possible. Interested parties may not see or hear media announcements until
 4 sometime after the water supply is affected, and some government agencies who disseminate
 5 public advisories may be closed on weekends or holidays. Supplemental use of available
 6 technology to more effectively alert persons affected by water contamination is therefore desired.

7 (b) Beginning no later than July 1, 2019, all utility companies and public service districts
 8 supplying water to the public within the state, in addition to other requirements in law for the
 9 reporting of boiled water advisories, shall promptly report the occurrence and the lifting of each
 10 advisory to local departments of health and to local office of emergency management 911
 11 answering points. No later than July 1, 2020, all water utility companies and public service districts
 12 shall make available to interested customers means by which they may receive boiled water
 13 advisories promptly through text and voice alert mass notification systems.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide for more immediate dissemination of boiled water advisories through local health departments and local emergency management 911 answering points, and directly to interested customers.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.