

HOUSE No. 563

By Mr. Coady of Cambridge (by request), petition of Edna Lawrence Spencer for legislation to require the testing of public water supplies for fluorine content. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Six.

AN ACT TO SAFEGUARD THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 All water supply systems of the commonwealth used
2 for public drinking purposes shall be tested for fluorine
3 content by the local health commissioner or local board
4 of health, twice annually. Said tests shall be made dur-
5 ing the first week of May and the first week of Novem-
6 ber in each year. If the local health commissioner or
7 local board of health is not equipped to make such tests,
8 he or it shall so notify the state board of health in writ-
9 ing at least fifteen days prior to the first day of May or
10 the first day of November, and the state board of health
11 shall make such tests. The results of such tests, stating
12 the amount of fluorine content in the water, shall be
13 published in a newspaper published in the municipality
14 where said water is used for drinking purposes, or if no
15 such newspaper, then once in a daily newspaper pub-
16 lished in the city of Boston. The publication of the re-
17 sults of said tests shall be no less than one column wide
18 and four inches in length, and the type shall not be
19 smaller than eight point. The expense of testing and
20 publishing shall be paid by the local health departments.

21 If the said tests reveal the fluorine content of such
22 water sources to exceed the amount of the natural fluorine
23 content of such water supply for the preceding ten-year
24 period, the local health authorities shall take immediate
25 action to insure that the fluorine content shall not exceed
26 the natural fluorine content of said water supply for the
27 said ten-year period.

28 Failure of the local health commissioner to carry out
29 the provisions of this act, shall be punishable by a fine of
30 not less than ten thousand dollars, and removal from
31 office.

32 Failure of the local board of health, where there is no
33 health commissioner, to carry out the provisions of this
34 act shall be punishable by a fine of not less than ten
35 thousand dollars for each member of the board and re-
36 moval from office.