

Introduced by Senator Hertzberg

February 17, 2022

An act to amend Section 10609.4 of the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1157, as introduced, Hertzberg. Urban water use objectives: indoor residential water use.

Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, and including collaboration with and input from stakeholders, to conduct necessary studies and investigations and authorizes the department and the board to jointly recommend to the Legislature a standard for indoor residential water use. Existing law, until January 1, 2025, establishes 55 gallons per capita daily as the standard for indoor residential water use. Existing law establishes, beginning January 1, 2025, the greater of 52.5 gallons per capita daily or a standard recommended by the department and the board as the standard for indoor residential water use, and beginning January 1, 2030, establishes the greater of 50 gallons per capita daily or a standard recommended by the department and the board as the standard for indoor residential water use.

This bill would eliminate the option of using the greater of 52.5 gallons per capita daily and the greater of 50 gallons per capita daily, as applicable, or a standard recommended by the department and the board as the standard for indoor residential water use. The bill would instead require that from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2030, the standard for indoor residential water use be 47 gallons per capita daily and beginning January 1, 2030, the standard be 42 gallons per capita daily.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 10609.4 of the Water Code is amended
2 to read:
3 10609.4. (a) (1) Until January 1, 2025, the standard for indoor
4 residential water use shall be 55 gallons per capita daily.
5 (2) Beginning January 1, 2025, and until January 1, 2030, the
6 standard for indoor residential water use shall be ~~the greater of~~
7 ~~52.5~~ 47 gallons per capita ~~daily or a standard recommended~~
8 ~~pursuant to subdivision (b):~~ daily.
9 (3) Beginning January 1, 2030, the standard for indoor
10 residential water use shall be ~~the greater of 50~~ 42 gallons per capita
11 ~~daily or a standard recommended pursuant to subdivision (b):~~ daily.
12 (b) (1) The department, in coordination with the board, shall
13 conduct necessary studies and investigations and may jointly
14 recommend to the Legislature a standard for indoor residential
15 water use that more appropriately reflects best practices for indoor
16 residential water use than the standard described in subdivision
17 (a). A report on the results of the studies and investigations shall
18 be made to the chairpersons of the relevant policy committees of
19 each house of the Legislature by January 1, 2021, and shall include
20 information necessary to support the recommended standard, if
21 there is one. The studies and investigations shall also include an
22 analysis of the benefits and impacts of how the changing standard
23 for indoor residential water use will impact water and wastewater
24 management, including potable water usage, wastewater, recycling
25 and reuse systems, infrastructure, operations, and supplies.
26 (2) The studies, investigations, and report described in paragraph
27 (1) shall include collaboration with, and input from, a broad group
28 of stakeholders, including, but not limited to, environmental groups,
29 experts in indoor plumbing, and water, wastewater, and recycled
30 water agencies.