



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

Legislative Document

No. 1943

H.P. 1387

House of Representatives, January 8, 2020

An Act To Protect Drinking Water for Low-income Maine Residents

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.
Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and
Representatives: FECTIONEAU of Biddeford, GATTINE of Westbrook, PEBWORTH of Blue Hill, Senators: CARPENTER of Aroostook, CARSON of Cumberland, MILLETT of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington, VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2660-U**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 475, Pt. C, §7, is further
3 amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

4 The department shall establish and maintain a program through the Health and
5 Environmental Testing Laboratory offering free well water testing for low-income
6 residents of the State. The program may not require justification for the well water
7 testing from a geologist or a physician.

8 **Sec. 2. Department of Health and Human Services to amend rules.** The
9 Department of Health and Human Services shall review recent research regarding arsenic
10 toxicity and levels suitable for consumption and shall amend 10-144 C.M.R. Chapter 231,
11 Rules Relating to Drinking Water to revise the maximum contaminant level for arsenic to
12 be consistent with that research.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish and
15 maintain a program through the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory offering
16 free well water testing for low-income residents of the State. It also requires the
17 department to review recent research regarding arsenic toxicity and levels suitable for
18 consumption and to amend its rules to revise the maximum contaminant level for arsenic
19 to be consistent with that research.