



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**TEST WELL WATER**

House Bill 4655  
Sponsor: Rep. Nate Jonker  
Committee: Public Health

FILED  
MAY 23 1989

Michigan State Law Library

Complete to 4-18-89

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4655 AS INTRODUCED 4-13-89**

The bill would add a section to the Public Health Code to require that anyone constructing a new well for drinking water test the well water for total coliform bacteria and for nitrate. If the local health department knew that an area near the well were contaminated, it could require testing for additional contaminants.

Samples for well water tests would have to be taken in accordance with standard sampling procedures that assured the accuracy of the test, and tests would have to be done by a laboratory from a list, prepared by the director of the Department of Public Health (DPH), of laboratories qualified to perform the required tests. The laboratory would have to certify to the accuracy of the test and prepare a written report that included whether any of the substances tested for were present, the amount of each substance measured, whether the amount of the substance exceeded any applicable state drinking water standards, and, if there were no state standards, an explanation of the significance of the test result.

The person having the water tested would be required to give a copy of the laboratory report to the owner of the well and to the state and local health departments within 30 days after the well had been constructed and a pump installed.

The bill is tie-barred to House Bill 4656, which would require permits for drilling new drinking water wells.

MCL 333.12703a

House Bill 4655 (4-18-89)