

# SENATE BILL NO. 577

September 18, 2025, Introduced by Senator SINGH and referred to Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 399, entitled  
"Safe drinking water act,"  
by amending section 9 (MCL 325.1009), as amended by 2021 PA 107.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1       Sec. 9. (1) The department shall classify public water  
2       supplies, including water treatment and distribution systems at  
3       community supplies, with regard to size, type, location, and other  
4       physical conditions for the purpose of establishing the skill,  
5       knowledge, and experience that individuals need to maintain and  
6       operate the systems effectively.

7       (2) The director shall appoint an advisory board of examiners

1 that shall assist the department in the examination of individuals  
2 as to their competency to operate water treatment systems and water  
3 distribution systems. The advisory board shall make recommendations  
4 to the department relative to the certification of those  
5 individuals.

6 (3) The membership of the advisory board consists of all of  
7 the following:

8 (a) Two certified water treatment operators.

9 (b) Two certified water distribution operators.

10 (c) One superintendent or manager of a supplier of water.

11 (d) One representative of the administrative branch of a local  
12 governmental agency.

13 (e) Two members of the public at large.

14 (f) One professor of sanitary or environmental engineering at  
15 a university in this state.

16 (4) A representative of the department shall be the nonvoting  
17 secretary for the board.

18 (5) For individuals ~~meeting that meet~~ the requirements, the  
19 department shall issue certificates ~~acknowledging that~~ **acknowledge**  
20 their competency to operate a specified class of waterworks system  
21 or portion of waterworks system. The department may suspend or  
22 revoke a certificate as specified by rule.

23 (6) A public water supply must be under the supervision of a  
24 properly certified operator as specified in the rules **promulgated**  
25 **under this act.**

26 (7) Operators certified under this act shall renew ~~their~~ **the**  
27 certificates in accordance with the rules promulgated under this  
28 act, including mandatory continuing education or competency  
29 demonstration.

1           (8) In accordance with section 3110 of the natural resources  
2 and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.3110, the  
3 department may conduct a program for training individuals ~~seeking~~  
4 **that seek** to be certified as operators under this section and shall  
5 administer operator certification programs for individuals ~~seeking~~  
6 **that seek** to be certified as operators under this section. ~~Until~~  
7 ~~October 1, 2025, the~~ **The** department may charge fees for these  
8 programs in accordance with section 3110 of the natural resources  
9 and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.3110. The  
10 department shall transmit fees collected under this section to the  
11 state treasurer for deposit into the operator training and  
12 certification fund created in section 3134 of the natural resources  
13 and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.3134.