Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and many other chemicals. PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the globe, including in the United States since the 1940s. PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both chemicals are very persistent in the environment and in the human body—meaning they don’t break down and they can accumulate over time. There is evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects.¹

PFAS chemicals are good at repelling oil and water. That makes them useful in a lot of products including non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers, pizza boxes, water-repellent fabrics and fire-fighting foam. Manufacturers have agreed to stop using two forms of PFAS in the U.S. These chemicals take a long time to break down in the environment, which is why they remain a problem now.²

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) compiled a map of contamination location throughout the nation. A cluster of contamination sites are located with the 58th Assembly District.³ While there is some data available, it’s not really known how severe or widespread contamination really is—the information available is just the tip of the iceberg. In addition, no Public Health Goal (PHG) or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFAS have been established. Interim Notification Levels (NL) have been adopted, however testing, reporting and notification while recommended, are not required by law.

**THIS BILL**
AB 756 authorizes the Waterboard to issue testing orders for multiple water districts, rather than one at a time—facilitating current investigative testing that is in already in progress. The information gathered can further inform the PHG and MCL process for detectable PFAS chemicals. It also requires customer notification in the Consumer Confidence Report if PFAS is detected, as well as reporting when notification and response levels for PFAS chemicals are exceeded—similar to what is currently recommend by the Waterboard.

**PREVIOUS LEGISLATION**
AB 252 (Lowenthal) (2004) requires the operator of wholesale or retail public water systems, as defined, to provide notice relating to contamination of any drinking water that exceeds the maximum containment level, a response level, or a notification level, as defined, including, but not limited to, notification to the Public Utilities Commission if the public water system is a regulated public utility.

**STATUS**
Chaptered on 7/31/19- Chapter #162

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¹ [https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas](https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas)

² [https://www.npr.org/2018/10/02/651180024/decades-old-chemicals-new-angst-over-drinking-water](https://www.npr.org/2018/10/02/651180024/decades-old-chemicals-new-angst-over-drinking-water)