

Support HB 348, Delegate McLaughlin
Residential Well Water Testing and Treatment for PFAS

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Purpose of the Bill

HB 348 will:

- Establish a Residential Well Water Testing and Treatment Program to protect users of private wells from contamination by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other "emerging contaminants."
- Create a Residential Well Water Testing and Treatment Program Fund in the state treasury.
- Direct the State Board of Health to adopt regulations to allow use of appropriate treatment systems.

Need for Legislation

- PFAS are toxic, synthetic chemicals that are present throughout Virginia in the air, water, and soil.
- PFAS linger in the environment and build up in organisms, including humans, taking so long to break down they have earned the name "forever chemicals," leading to widespread contamination and long-lasting risk of exposure.
- PFAS pose high risk to human health, linked to cancer; harm to fetal and/or infant development; increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity; decreased fertility; increased high blood pressure during pregnancy; reduced immune system function; and disrupted hormonal processes.
- Sampling of public water supply wells shows numerous instances where PFAS exceed U.S. EPA drinking water standards¹ and studies conclude that most wells in Virginia will have PFAS.²
- Many Virginians, especially those in rural areas, depend on private wells for their water, are vulnerable to contamination, and do not have ready access to alternate water sources.

FAQs

Are there provisions for funding these initiatives?

[will add info. about budge item when available]

Are there effective and practical treatment options for removal of PFAS from groundwater?

Yes, the U.S. EPA has found that three treatment processes are effective for removal of PFAS from drinking water - granular activated carbon, ion exchange, and high-pressure membrane systems.³

How many Virginians need protection from PFAS in residential wells?

More than one million households,⁴ about 2.5 million Virginia residents,⁵ use wells and springs which could be contaminated by PFAS.

Who opposes this legislation?

We are unaware of any opposition.

¹ Virginia Mercury, [Virginia water regulators begin process of identifying PFAS sources](#), November 25, 2024.

² Radio IQ/WVTF, [Most well water in Virginia likely has PFAS, reasearchers find](#), December 16, 2025.

³ See U.S. EPA, [PFAS Treatment in Drinking Water and Wastewater - State of the Science](#), Webinar Presentation, September 16, 2020.

⁴ Virginia Department of Health, [Private Well Water Information](#).

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, [Quick Facts](#) estimate 2.53 people per household in Virginia.