

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

STATEMENT TO ASSEMBLY, No. 3114

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

The Assembly Special Committee on Infrastructure and Natural Resources reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3114.

This bill, as amended, would require the owner or operator of a public water system to reimburse a residential customer at the request of the customer for the cost of water testing at the residence by a lab certified by the Department of Environmental Protection when the testing is necessitated by the exceedance of a maximum contaminant level, or action level, as appropriate, of a federal or State drinking water standard by the public water system. The bill would allow an owner or operator of a public water system that is regulated by the Board of Public Utilities to petition the board to include in the public water system's operation and maintenance costs the reasonable reimbursement costs of testing incurred pursuant to the bill. The board would also be prohibited from authorizing a rate of return on the reasonable reimbursement costs included in the operation and maintenance costs.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments to the bill:

- 1) change the requirement that the municipality request reimbursement for the cost of water testing and instead require the owner or operator of a public water system to reimburse a residential customer for the cost of water testing at the customer's request;
- 2) delete the prohibition on imposing the reimbursement costs of testing on regulated rate customers;
- 3) allow the owner or operator of a public water system regulated by the Board of Public Utilities to petition the board to include in the public water system's operation and maintenance costs the reasonable reimbursement costs of testing incurred; and
- 4) prohibit the Board of Public Utilities from authorizing a rate of return on the reasonable reimbursement costs included in the operation and maintenance costs.