School
Santa Rosa High School

Senate Committee
Health & Human Services

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House Committee
Natural Resources

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Surprise Water Inspection Act

HB 33 – SB 28

Bill Analysis

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Texans expect their public water supply systems to provide clean, safe drinking water. Some communities, however, have experienced ongoing water quality concerns, including discoloration, foul odors, cloudiness, and mineral deposits—issues classified as secondary drinking water concerns. While secondary contaminants are generally not considered harmful to health at regulated levels, they can affect water quality, household appliances, and consumer confidence in their water supply.

A key concern is that when residents file complaints with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) about water quality, public water systems may receive advance notice before testing occurs.

Local residents have raised concerns about instances in which water suppliers have reportedly conducted preemptive treatments, such as chlorine shocking, before TCEQ inspections, potentially affecting test results.

Additionally, some communities have reported challenges with communication from their water providers, rate increases despite unresolved water quality issues, and difficulties obtaining reimbursement for bottled water expenses.

These concerns underscore the need for a transparent and accountable water testing process to maintain public confidence.

The Surprise Water Inspection Act (HB 33/SB 28) would strengthen water quality oversight by authorizing TCEQ to provide no more than 24 hours' advance notice to public drinking water systems that obtain their water from underground sources before conducting water quality testing in response to a complaint.

This change would help ensure that testing accurately reflects everyday water conditions and is not affected by short-term pretreatment measures.

By promoting transparency, strengthening accountability, and reinforcing public trust in water quality testing, (HB 33/SB 28) would help ensure Texans receive the reliable drinking water they expect and pay for.

The bill amends current law relating to notice provided to certain public drinking water supply systems before water quality testing.

STUDENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION
TEXAS STATE CAPITOL
EST. 2003

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RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter C, Chapter 341, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 341.0317, as follows:

Sec. 341.0317. NOTICE OF WATER QUALITY TESTING.

Authorizes the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to provide notice no more than 24 hours in advance to a public drinking water supply system that obtains its water from underground sources of TCEQ's intent to perform water quality testing to investigate a complaint related to the system's water quality.

The provision allows TCEQ discretion in providing notice and does not require the agency to provide the full 24 hours of advance notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon passage or on January 1, 2027.