



98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

HB5629

by Rep. Robyn Gabel

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Water Loss Accounting Awareness Act. Provides that, before July 31, 2015, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Commerce Commission, the Illinois State Water Survey of the University of Illinois, and other local and regional water management leaders and interested parties as the Agency deems appropriate, shall submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report that reviews and evaluates the latest available information on water loss in Illinois including existing data, policies, procedures, and institutional knowledge (including publicly available reports from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the American Water Works Association, and the State archives). Effective immediately.

LRB098 17318 MGM 52413 b

1 AN ACT concerning safety.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Water
5 Loss Accounting Awareness Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

7 "Agency" means the Illinois Environmental Protection
8 Agency.

9 "Water loss" means a loss in potable water within a water
10 supply distribution infrastructure either through real losses
11 such as pipeline leakage and water main breaks or apparent
12 losses when consumption is not properly measured or billed such
13 as metering inaccuracies or theft.

14 "Water loss control" means the efforts of water utilities
15 to provide accountability in their operation by reliably
16 auditing their water supplies and implementing controls to
17 minimize system losses.

18 Section 10. Water loss study and report.

19 (a) Before July 31, 2015, the Agency, in consultation with
20 the Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Commerce
21 Commission, the Illinois State Water Survey of the University
22 of Illinois, and other local and regional water management

1 leaders and interested parties as the Agency deems appropriate,
2 shall submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report
3 that reviews and evaluates the latest available information on
4 water loss in this State, including existing data, policies,
5 procedures, and institutional knowledge (including publicly
6 available reports from the federal Environmental Protection
7 Agency (USEPA), the American Water Works Association (AWWA),
8 and the State archives), including coverage of the following:

9 (1) The overall extent and cost of water loss within
10 this State's water supply infrastructure. This should
11 include:

12 (A) estimates of the volume and economic costs of
13 water loss from water supply infrastructure;

14 (B) estimates of the costs associated with water
15 infrastructure failure such as main breaks, system
16 disruption, property damage, and expenditures for
17 treating and pumping unused or lost water; and

18 (C) evaluation of the impact water loss has on
19 other identified demands for water supply and resource
20 management, including increasing climate-related
21 drought, commercial and industrial demand, energy
22 production and consumption, and related impacts.

23 (2) Data about current water loss practices within this
24 State and nationally, along with information on the costs
25 and benefits of these practices, including:

26 (A) a summary of the types of water loss accounting

1 approaches used by public and private water supply
2 utilities in this State, and identified or anticipated
3 costs and benefits;

4 (B) policies, practices, and procedures in other
5 states that have adopted regulation, standards, or
6 guidance for water loss accounting and identified
7 costs and benefits; and

8 (C) the potential costs and benefits to utilities
9 and this State for implementing standardized water
10 loss accounting, either by utility or utility class,
11 for example, size.

12 Quantitative costs should include: cost of
13 implementing audits, including staff training time and
14 system upgrades, any costs to customers, and job impacts.
15 Benefits should include elimination of system leaks and
16 breaks, including water and treatment cost savings, energy
17 savings from reduced pumping and treatment, and potential
18 job creation. Analysis should also contain descriptions of
19 qualitative costs and benefits. These may include
20 increased system reliability, improved consumer
21 confidence, watershed benefits from decreased pumping and
22 treatment, increased interdepartmental cooperation in data
23 reporting and water loss prevention efforts, and improved
24 accountability between utilities that import or export
25 water, due to data standardization.

26 (b) The study shall also provide recommendations based on

1 these findings in relation to:

2 (1) Cost effective strategies to improve water loss
3 accounting, control, and public transparency including:

4 (A) a summary of currently available water loss
5 auditing methods, such as the American Water Works
6 Association (AWWA) methodology and manual (M36); and

7 (B) policies and practices to improve public
8 reporting of water loss conditions.

9 (2) Opportunities to accelerate State-wide adoption of
10 water loss accounting by water utilities, including a
11 timeline for implementation, and support that would be
12 needed for utilities to implement a water loss accounting
13 system.

14 Support does not need to be limited to State resources.
15 The report may also recommend an external technical
16 committee and encourage partnerships with nonprofit or
17 civic organizations.

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
19 becoming law.