

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 751

To express the sense of the Senate concerning a new drinking water standard for arsenic.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 6, 2001

Mrs. CLINTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To express the sense of the Senate concerning a new drinking water standard for arsenic.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING A NEW**  
4       **DRINKING WATER STANDARD FOR ARSENIC.**

5       (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

6               (1) the National Academy of Sciences concluded  
7       in a 1999 report that there is sufficient evidence  
8       that chronic ingestion of arsenic causes bladder,  
9       lung, and skin cancer;

1           (2) the National Academy of Sciences also con-  
2           cluded in that report that “the current [maximum  
3           contaminant level] for arsenic in drinking water of  
4           50 [micrograms per liter] does not achieve the Envi-  
5           ronmental Protection Agency’s goal for public-health  
6           protection and, therefore, requires downward revi-  
7           sion as promptly as possible”;

8           (3) the 50 microgram per liter standard for ar-  
9           senic in drinking water has not been revised since  
10          1942;

11          (4) the World Health Organization has estab-  
12          lished a provisional guideline for arsenic in drinking  
13          water of 10 micrograms per liter, indicating that the  
14          guideline value would be lower than 10 micrograms  
15          per liter if based on health concerns alone;

16          (5) a recent scientific study has shown low con-  
17          centrations of arsenic to have hormone-disrupting ef-  
18          fects;

19          (6) in the amendments made by the Safe  
20          Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 (Public  
21          Law 104–182), Congress required the Administrator  
22          of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose  
23          a national primary drinking water regulation for ar-  
24          senic not later than January 1, 2000, and to pro-

1 mulgate the regulation not later than January 1,  
2 2001; and

3 (7) in title III of the Departments of Veterans  
4 Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and  
5 Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001  
6 (114 Stat. 1441, 1441A–41), Congress extended the  
7 date by which the Administrator is required to pro-  
8 mulgate a national primary drinking water regula-  
9 tion for arsenic to June 22, 2001.

10 (b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of the Senate  
12 that to provide maximum protection for public  
13 health and a maximum period of time for commu-  
14 nities to implement a new standard for arsenic in  
15 drinking water, the Administrator should promulgate  
16 a national primary drinking water regulation for ar-  
17 senic not later than June 22, 2001, as specified by  
18 Congress in the matter under the heading “ENVI-  
19 RONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT” in title  
20 III of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and  
21 Housing and Urban Development, and Independent  
22 Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 1441,  
23 1441A–41).

24 (2) CONFORMITY WITH POLICY.—To ensure  
25 protection of public health, the regulation should

1 conform with the stated risk management policy of  
2 the Environmental Protection Agency for setting  
3 drinking water standards for contaminants that are  
4 known human carcinogens.

