



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB2759

by Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 425/22 new

Amends the University of Illinois Scientific Surveys Act. Provides that, subject to appropriation, no later than December 1, 2020, the Illinois State Water Survey, in coordination with the Department of Public Health, must issue a report evaluating the setting of water rates throughout Illinois; specifies report requirements. Provides that in developing the report, the Illinois State Water Survey shall form an advisory committee; provides for the committee's membership. Provides that no later than 60 days after the effective date of the amendatory Act, the Illinois State Water Survey must provide an opportunity for public comment on the questions to be addressed in the report, the metrics to be used, and the recommendations that need to be issued. Repeals the provision on January 1, 2021. Effective immediately.

LRB101 07221 AXK 52259 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

4 Section 5. The University of Illinois Scientific Surveys  
5 Act is amended by adding Section 22 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 425/22 new)

7 Sec. 22. Water rates report.

8 (a) Subject to appropriation, no later than December 1,  
9 2020, the Illinois State Water Survey, in coordination with the  
10 Department of Public Health, must issue a report evaluating the  
11 setting of water rates throughout Illinois. The report must  
12 provide recommendations for policy and regulatory needs at the  
13 State and local level based on its findings. The report shall,  
14 at a minimum, address all of the following areas:

15 (1) The components of a water bill.

16 (2) Reasons for increases in water rates.

17 (3) The definition of affordability throughout the  
18 State and any variances to that definition.

19 (4) Evidence of rate-setting that utilizes  
20 inappropriate practices.

21 (5) The extent to which State or local policies drive  
22 cost increases or variations in rate-settings.

23 (6) Challenges within economically disadvantaged

1 communities in setting water rates.

2 (7) Opportunities for increased intergovernmental  
3 coordination for setting equitable water rates.

4 (b) In developing the report under this Section, the  
5 Illinois State Water Survey shall form an advisory committee,  
6 which shall be composed of all of the following members:

7 (1) The Director of the Environmental Protection  
8 Agency, or his or her designee.

9 (2) The Director of Natural Resources, or his or her  
10 designee.

11 (3) The Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity,  
12 or his or her designee.

13 (4) The Attorney General, or his or her designee.

14 (5) At least 2 members who are representatives of  
15 private water utilities operating in Illinois, appointed  
16 by the Director of the Illinois State Water Survey.

17 (6) At least 2 members who are representatives of  
18 municipal water utilities, appointed by the Director of the  
19 Illinois State Water Survey.

20 (7) One member who is a representative of an  
21 environmental justice advocacy organization, appointed by  
22 the Director of the Illinois State Water Survey.

23 (8) One member who is a representative of a consumer  
24 advocacy organization, appointed by the Director of Public  
25 Health.

26 (9) One member who is a representative of an

1 environmental planning organization that serves  
2 northeastern Illinois, appointed by the Director of the  
3 Illinois State Water Survey.

4 (c) After all members are appointed, the committee shall  
5 hold its first meeting at the call of the Director of the  
6 Illinois State Water Survey, at which meeting the members shall  
7 select a chairperson from among themselves. After its first  
8 meeting, the committee shall meet at the call of the  
9 chairperson. Members of the committee shall serve without  
10 compensation but may be reimbursed for their reasonable and  
11 necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties. The  
12 Department of Public Health shall provide administrative and  
13 other support to the committee.

14 (d) No later than 60 days after the effective date of this  
15 amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly, the Illinois  
16 State Water Survey must provide an opportunity for public  
17 comment on the questions to be addressed in the report, the  
18 metrics to be used, and the recommendations that need to be  
19 issued.

20 (e) This Section is repealed on January 1, 2021.

21 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
22 becoming law.