

Federal Legislation: Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 2016/U.S. House of Representatives Introduction

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A bill that would make comprehensive revisions to the Safe Drinking Water Act ("SDWA") has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives ("House").

The bill is titled *The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 2016* ("Amendments") and sponsors include House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) and Environment and the Economy Subcommittee Ranking Member Paul Tonko (D-NY).

The SDWA has not been the subject of comprehensive revision since the mid-1990s.

The *Amendments* are described by the sponsors as a comprehensive update to existing drinking water standards. They also state the resiliency and security of water infrastructure would be improved by:

- Empowering the United States Environmental Protection Agency to set needed drinking water standards
- Requiring water systems to address risks to their source water, climate change, industrial activity, and terrorism
- Authorizing new investments in lead line replacement, climate resiliency, monitoring technology, and overall drinking water infrastructure
- Improving compliance and community right to know

The bill will be referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

[A press release drafted by the sponsors, along with a one-page summary of the bill, can be downloaded here.](#)