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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1382 Session of  
2009

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INTRODUCED BY DePASQUALE, SANTONI, BARRAR, BRENNAN, REICHLLEY,  
BURNS, JOSEPHS, HALUSKA, KOTIK, K. SMITH, YOUNGBLOOD,  
D. COSTA, BRIGGS, GIBBONS, W. KELLER, FRANKEL AND MATZIE,  
APRIL 29, 2009

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, APRIL 29,  
2009

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AN ACT

1 Providing for fluoridation of public water.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Dental Health  
6 Act.

7 Section 2. Purpose.

8 Because community water fluoridation is lauded by the Centers  
9 for Disease Control as one of the ten most significant public  
10 health achievements of the 20th century, it is the purpose of  
11 this act to provide this preventive measure that will reduce  
12 dental disease and contain health care costs. This act will  
13 benefit all Pennsylvanians, especially those who do not have  
14 regular dental care. This act will also help to reduce the  
15 52,000,000 hours lost by children who miss school due to  
16 toothaches and other oral health complications.

1 Section 3. Fluoride content of water.

2 Whenever the fluoride content of water served by public water  
3 suppliers to 500 domestic water connections or more is less than  
4 0.7 milligrams per liter of fluoride, the person, association,  
5 firm, corporation, authority or municipality having jurisdiction  
6 over the supply shall add a measured amount of fluoride to the  
7 water so as to maintain a fluoride content of between 0.7  
8 milligrams per liter and 1.2 milligrams per liter, in accordance  
9 with regulations adopted by the Department of Environmental  
10 Protection in consultation with the Department of Health, and at  
11 a level recommended by the United States Public Health Service  
12 and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Department of  
13 Environmental Protection shall enforce this act commencing one  
14 year after the effective date of this act.

15 Section 4. Cost recovery.

16 A public water supplier whose rates for service are  
17 established by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission may  
18 file tariffs establishing a sliding scale of rates or other  
19 method for the automatic adjustment of the rates of the public  
20 water supplier which provides for the recovery of all costs  
21 incurred in compliance with or resulting from the requirements  
22 of this act, including operating expenses and a return on and  
23 return of capital investment.

24 Section 5. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect in 18 months.