

Subject PFAS Water Quality Standards

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Summary

This bill would appropriate an unspecified amount of money from the clean water fund to the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) to adopt water quality standards for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), two of the more common perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) found in the environment.

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals with a variety of uses and can be found in firefighting foam, nonstick products, and stain- and water-repellent fabrics. Research has found that PFAS persist in the environment and in the human body and accumulate over time causing adverse effects on human health.

The federal Clean Water Act requires states to designate beneficial uses for all waters and develop water quality standards to protect each use. The PCA assumes this role for the state and periodically adopts/amends the state's water quality standards. The standards are used in point-source discharge permitting decisions.