Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act

What are lead service lines?

- Lead service lines are the lead pipes that bring water into homes from utilities’ water mains.
- Lead pipes have been used throughout the U.S. since the 1800s to supply drinking water, but were banned by Congress in 1986 for their dangerous health effects.
- While lead pipes are no longer installed, a huge number of legacy pipes remain in use across Illinois.

A major source of lead in drinking water

- Lead in drinking water primarily comes from lead service lines — and poses a major public health threat.
- Children exposed to lead can have lower IQs, learning disabilities, and stunted growth. Adults who have been exposed have higher risks of heart attack, high blood pressure, and reproductive problems.
- Lead poisoning has major costs for our society. In 2017, 1,470 Illinoisans died prematurely from heart disease related to lead exposure, costing nearly $28 million in hospitalization costs alone.
- Lead service lines need to be replaced in full. Partial replacement (i.e. replacing only the public portion of the line) can actually increase lead levels in drinking water.

The solution: Replace all lead service lines in Illinois

This bill would require all water utilities to **find and replace their lead service lines** while setting forth a **feasible timeline** based on national best practices.

It would also establish a **reliable funding source** to aid utilities in creating an inventory and replacing lead lines for all affected communities.

**Equity** is a major component of the bill. Utilities would be required to prioritize replacement at facilities used by high-risk populations, such as preschools and daycares. Additionally, a portion of the funds would provide **assistance for low-income families**.

Illinois’ Lead Problem

- **686,259** known lead service lines based on reporting to IEPA
- **1,067,649** potential lead service lines based on reporting to IEPA