

# Legislative Analysis



## CREATE BROWN ALERT SYSTEM FOR DANGEROUS LEVELS OF E. COLI IN WATER

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 4427 (proposed substitute H-3)**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Alicia St. Germaine**  
**Committee: Natural Resources and Tourism**  
**Complete to 10-1-25**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 4427 would amend the Emergency Management Act to require issuance of a ***brown alert*** for a county if the waters of that county are determined to contain a dangerous level of *Escherichia coli* (commonly referred to as *E. coli*) as the result of a discharge of sewage from a combined sewer or sanitary sewer overflow event. A dangerous level of *E. coli* would be defined as an amount in excess of 300 *E. coli* per 100 milliliters.

***Brown alert*** would mean an emergency alert through the Wireless Emergency Alert system concerning a dangerous level of *E. coli* in any waters of the county.

The ***health officer*** or health officer's designee would be responsible for determining whether dangerous levels of *E. coli* or sewage are present in the waters of their county. As soon as practical, but within 12 hours of making such a determination, the officer or designee would have to notify the emergency management coordinator of the applicable county or counties. The coordinator would have to issue a brown alert to county residents as soon as possible, but no later than 12 hours after being notified of the dangerous levels. A brown alert would have to include the location of the contamination and the health risks of exposure to that contamination and could contain additional information as well.

***Health officer*** would mean the individual in charge of either a county health department or a health department that represents multiple counties.

Proposed MCL 30.410a

### FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4427 would not have a significant fiscal impact on state expenditures to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) or local units of government.

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