

Division of Water

**Request for Legislation**

The Division of Water (CWD) is requesting legislation to amend Codified Ordinance 535.051(b), Water Bill Credits, increasing the annual \$10,000 ceiling to \$25,000.00.

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**Background/Purpose:**

The Division of Water is required to perform Ohio EPA mandated lead testing at approximately 70 homes in its distribution system that meet specific criteria. The customer must follow exact procedures the night before sampling and has to ensure no water is used throughout the night, then take the proper samples the first thing in the morning before any other water is used. Time and effort is involved to ensure sampling is done correctly. In years past CWD has struggled to find enough residents who would volunteer to perform these services. CWD has found better success in locating sufficient and proper homes to test by incenting them with a \$100 credit on their water bill.

**Scope of Work/Commodities/Services:**

The Division of Water is seeking to amend Codified Ordinance 535.051(b). CWD would like to increase the annual \$10,000 ceiling for testing incentives to \$25,000.00.

**Justification/Urgency:**

In addition to mandated testing, CWD is desirous of participating this year in research being performed by the US EPA. The US EPA is attempting to determine if enhanced lead sampling in homes can provide insight into where buried lead service lines exist, and has asked CWD to participate. Approximately 40 CWD homes will be selected to have their water tested. Because of the significant effort and coordination required to perform each test, and because of CWD's previous success with incentives to locate volunteers for the mandatory Ohio EPA testing, CWD believes offering the same \$100 water bill credit will result in obtaining enough volunteers for the two programs in 2021. CWD believes the research findings can be so significant to advance the understanding of the issues associated with the location of lead service lines that this investment would be well worth it.

Additionally, it appears likely that by 2024, the federal lead testing requirements will be increased, and CWD will have to perform far more lead tests to meet the new law. In such a case, the \$10,000 current cap will prove to be insufficient. CWD requests to raise the cap to \$25,000.00, for two programs in 2021, and for increased compliance testing by 2024.

**Anticipated Costs and Funding Source:**

CWD's costs will increase from approximately \$10,000 a year ultimately to about \$25,000.00 per year. CWD will use operating revenue 52-001 to fund these incentives.