



(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, **may possibly** be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

"Utility to replace lead pipes tainting water Lead Trenton Water Works plans to spend \$150M over five years on replacement plan,"  
The Times (Trenton, NJ), January 10, 2020

rwh/cl

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 291, *approved January 9, 2020*  
Senate, No. 4110 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning entry onto property to perform lead service line  
2 replacements and supplementing Title 58 of the Revised Statutes.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6  
7 <sup>1</sup>1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Lead service lines are the primary source of lead in drinking  
9 water;

10 b. It is estimated that there are between 160,000 and 350,000 lead  
11 service lines throughout the State;

12 c. Lead in drinking water poses a serious health and safety risk to  
13 the public, particularly infants and children;

14 d. A municipality in the State, pursuant to R.S.40:48-2, may enact  
15 such ordinances as it deems necessary and proper for the preservation  
16 of the public health, safety, and welfare of the municipality and its  
17 inhabitants; and

18 e. It is the intent of the Legislature to clarify that a municipality  
19 may enact an ordinance to enter properties to perform lead service line  
20 replacements as part of its powers to protect to the health, safety, and  
21 welfare of its residents.<sup>1</sup>

22  
23 <sup>1</sup>**[1.]** 2.<sup>1</sup> a. A municipality may adopt an ordinance that allows  
24 the municipality <sup>1</sup>or municipal water system<sup>1</sup>, or any agent thereof, to  
25 enter a <sup>1</sup>**[residential]**<sup>1</sup> property <sup>1</sup>within the municipality<sup>1</sup> to perform a  
26 lead service line replacement, provided that the municipality provides  
27 the <sup>1</sup>owner and any<sup>1</sup> residents of the property with notice at least  
28 <sup>1</sup>**[24]** 72<sup>1</sup> hours before entering the property <sup>1</sup>, unless in the case of an  
29 emergency as determined by the Department of Environmental  
30 Protection<sup>1</sup>. A municipality may not enter into a part of the property  
31 that is not directly related to performing a lead service line  
32 replacement.

33 b. For the purposes of this section, notice to the <sup>1</sup>owner and any<sup>1</sup>  
34 residents of the property shall include an attempt to inform the <sup>1</sup>owner  
35 and any<sup>1</sup> residents in person of the date and time of the lead service  
36 line replacement, and if <sup>1</sup>the owner or<sup>1</sup> a resident is unable to be  
37 reached in person, the municipality shall <sup>1</sup>send, by certified mail, a

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SCU committee amendments adopted November 14, 2019.

1 letter to the owner and any residents or<sup>1</sup> post a written notice in a  
2 prominent location on the property which shall include:

3 (1) the scheduled date and time of the lead service line  
4 replacement <sup>1</sup>and who will be performing the replacement<sup>1</sup>;

5 (2) the likely extent of water service disruption; <sup>1</sup>[and]<sup>1</sup>

6 (3) nearby locations where the municipality or a public water  
7 system is distributing supplementary drinking water, if any <sup>1</sup>; and

8 (4) any remedies that the municipality shall take if the municipality  
9 or municipal water system, or an agent thereof, is unable to access the  
10 property.

11 In a municipality in which the primary language of 10 percent or  
12 more of the residents is a language other than English, a letter or  
13 written notice sent or posted pursuant to this subsection shall be  
14 provided in English and any other such primary language<sup>1</sup>.

15 c. In addition to the notice requirements of subsection b. of this  
16 section, a municipality shall send <sup>1</sup>, by certified mail,<sup>1</sup> the owner a  
17 <sup>1</sup>[certified]<sup>1</sup> letter after the completion of the replacement stating the  
18 approximate time that the replacement occurred, and providing a brief  
19 summary of the work performed.

20 d. As used in this section <sup>1</sup>[, “service”]:

21 “Municipal water system” means a municipal utilities authority,  
22 water district, waterworks, water commission, joint meeting or any  
23 other political subdivision of the State authorized pursuant to law to  
24 operate or maintain a public water system or to construct, rehabilitate,  
25 operate, or maintain water supply facilities or otherwise provide water  
26 for human consumption.

27 “Service<sup>1</sup> line” means the pipe, tubing, and fittings connecting a  
28 <sup>1</sup>municipal<sup>1</sup> water main to a <sup>1</sup>[residential]<sup>1</sup> building <sup>1</sup>or structure, and  
29 also includes the water meter for the property<sup>1</sup>.

30

31 <sup>1</sup>[2.] 3.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.

32

33

34

35

36 Allows municipalities to adopt ordinance to enter properties to  
37 perform lead service line replacements.

# SENATE, No. 4110

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator NELLIE POU**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Allows municipalities to adopt ordinance to enter properties to perform lead service line replacements.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/15/2019)**

1 AN ACT concerning entry onto property to perform lead service line  
2 replacements and supplementing Title 58 of the Revised Statutes.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6  
7 1. a. A municipality may adopt an ordinance that allows the  
8 municipality, or any agent thereof, to enter a residential property to  
9 perform a lead service line replacement, provided that the  
10 municipality provides the residents of the property with notice at  
11 least 24 hours before entering the property. A municipality may not  
12 enter into a part of the property that is not directly related to  
13 performing a lead service line replacement.

14 b. For the purposes of this section, notice to the residents of the  
15 property shall include an attempt to inform the residents in person  
16 of the date and time of the lead service line replacement, and if a  
17 resident is unable to be reached in person, the municipality shall  
18 post a written notice in a prominent location on the property which  
19 shall include:

20 (1) the scheduled date and time of the lead service line  
21 replacement;

22 (2) the likely extent of water service disruption; and

23 (3) nearby locations where the municipality or a public water  
24 system is distributing supplementary drinking water, if any.

25 c. In addition to the notice requirements of subsection b. of this  
26 section, a municipality shall send the owner a certified letter after  
27 the completion of the replacement stating the approximate time that  
28 the replacement occurred, and providing a brief summary of the  
29 work performed.

30 d. As used in this section, "service line" means the pipe,  
31 tubing, and fittings connecting a water main to a residential  
32 building.

33  
34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

35  
36

37 STATEMENT

38  
39 This bill would allow a municipality to adopt an ordinance that  
40 allows the municipality, or an agent thereof, to enter a residential  
41 property to perform a lead service line replacement after providing  
42 notice to residents at least 24 hours in advance of the replacement.  
43 A municipality would not be permitted to enter into a part of the  
44 property that is not directly related to performing a lead service line  
45 replacement.

46 The bill requires that the municipality provide notice to the  
47 residents of the property 24 hours before entering, which would  
48 include an attempt to inform the residents in person of the date and

1 time of the lead service line replacement. If a resident is unable to  
2 be reached in person, the municipality would be required to post a  
3 written notice in a prominent location on the property which  
4 includes:

5 (a) the scheduled date and time of the lead service line  
6 replacement;

7 (b) the likely extent of water service disruption; and

8 (c) nearby locations where the municipality or a public water  
9 system is distributing supplementary drinking water, if any.

10 In addition to the notice requirements, a municipality would be  
11 required to send the owner a certified letter after the completion of  
12 the replacement stating the approximate time that the replacement  
13 occurred, and providing a brief summary of the work performed.

# SENATE COMMUNITY AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 4110**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: NOVEMBER 14, 2019

The Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 4110, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill would allow a municipality to adopt an ordinance that allows the municipality or municipal water system, or an agent thereof, to enter a property to perform a lead service line replacement after providing notice to the owner and any residents at least 72 hours in advance of the replacement, unless in the case of an emergency as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection. A municipality would not be permitted to enter into a part of the property that is not directly related to performing a lead service line replacement.

The bill requires that the municipality provide notice to the owner and any residents of the property 72 hours before entering the property, which would include an attempt to inform the owner and any residents in person of the date and time of the lead service line replacement. If the owner or a resident is unable to be reached in person, the municipality would be required to send, by certified mail, a letter to the owner and any residents or to post a written notice in a prominent location on the property which letter or notice would have to include:

(a) the scheduled date and time of the lead service line replacement and the identity of who will be performing the replacement;

(b) the likely extent of water service disruption;

(c) nearby locations where the municipality or a public water system is distributing supplementary drinking water, if any; and

(d) any remedies that the municipality will take if the municipality or municipal water system, or an agent thereof, is unable to access the property.

In a municipality in which the primary language of 10 percent or more of the residents is a language other than English, the letter or written notice would have to be provided in English and any other such primary language.

In addition to the notice requirements, a municipality would be required to send the owner a letter, by certified mail, after the completion of the replacement stating the approximate time that the



replacement occurred, and providing a brief summary of the work performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- (1) Expand the bill to non-residential properties;
- (2) Allow the ordinance to authorize a municipal water system or its agent to enter a property to perform a lead service line replacement;
- (3) Require that a municipality provide notice to the owner and any residents of the property 72 hours before entering a property to perform a lead service line replacement, unless in the case of an emergency as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection. Originally, the bill required 24 hours' notice that only had to be provided to the residents and did not provide an emergency exception;
- (4) Require that, if the notice cannot be made in person, the municipality would be required to send, by certified mail, a letter to the owner and any residents or to post a written notice in a prominent location on the property. Originally, the bill required the municipality to post a written notice in this circumstance;
- (5) Require that the letter or written notice include the identity of who will be performing the lead service line replacement any remedies that the municipality will take if the municipality or municipal water system, or an agent thereof, is unable to access the property;
- (6) Require that the letter or written notice be provided in English and any other language which is the primary language of at least 10 percent of the municipality's residents;
- (7) Amend the definition of service line to include a property's water meter, meaning that a municipality could enter the property to replace a water meter under the bill; and
- (8) Add findings and declarations setting forth the bill's rationale and purpose.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5854

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 14, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER**

**District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

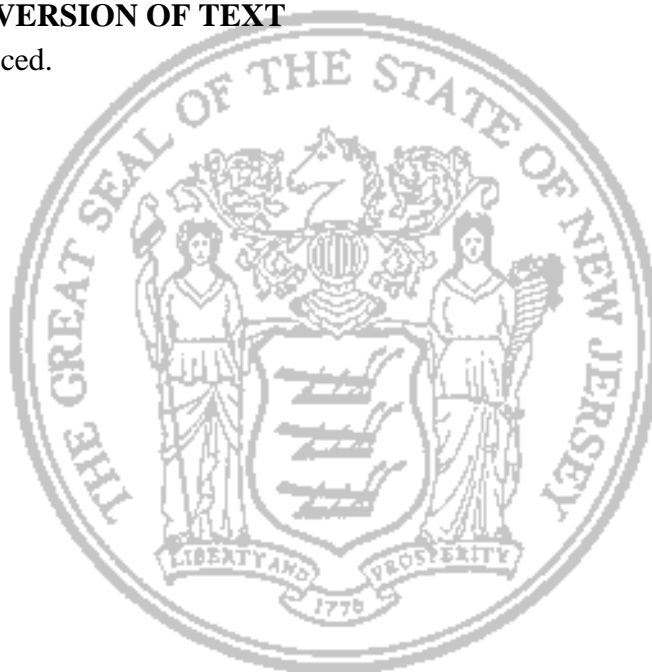
**Assemblywomen Quijano, Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblymen Benson,  
DeAngelo and Caputo**

**SYNOPSIS**

Allows municipalities to adopt ordinance to enter properties to perform lead service line replacements.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/26/2019)**

1 AN ACT concerning entry onto property to perform lead service line  
2 replacements and supplementing Title 58 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. A municipality may adopt an ordinance that allows the  
8 municipality, or any agent thereof, to enter a residential property to  
9 perform a lead service line replacement, provided that the  
10 municipality provides the residents of the property with notice at  
11 least 24 hours before entering the property. A municipality may not  
12 enter into a part of the property that is not directly related to  
13 performing a lead service line replacement.

14 b. For the purposes of this section, notice to the residents of the  
15 property shall include an attempt to inform the residents in person  
16 of the date and time of the lead service line replacement, and if a  
17 resident is unable to be reached in person, the municipality shall  
18 post a written notice in a prominent location on the property which  
19 shall include:

20 (1) the scheduled date and time of the lead service line  
21 replacement;

22 (2) the likely extent of water service disruption; and

23 (3) nearby locations where the municipality or a public water  
24 system is distributing supplementary drinking water, if any.

25 c. In addition to the notice requirements of subsection b. of this  
26 section, a municipality shall send the owner a certified letter after  
27 the completion of the replacement stating the approximate time that  
28 the replacement occurred, and providing a brief summary of the  
29 work performed.

30 d. As used in this section, "service line" means the pipe,  
31 tubing, and fittings connecting a water main to a residential  
32 building.

33

34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

35

36

37

#### STATEMENT

38

39 This bill would allow a municipality to adopt an ordinance that  
40 allows the municipality, or an agent thereof, to enter a residential  
41 property to perform a lead service line replacement after providing  
42 notice to residents at least 24 hours in advance of the replacement.  
43 A municipality would not be permitted to enter into a part of the  
44 property that is not directly related to performing a lead service line  
45 replacement.

46 The bill requires that the municipality provide notice to the  
47 residents of the property 24 hours before entering, which would  
48 include an attempt to inform the residents in person of the date and

1 time of the lead service line replacement. If a resident is unable to  
2 be reached in person, the municipality would be required to post a  
3 written notice in a prominent location on the property which  
4 includes:

5 (a) the scheduled date and time of the lead service line  
6 replacement;

7 (b) the likely extent of water service disruption; and

8 (c) nearby locations where the municipality or a public water  
9 system is distributing supplementary drinking water, if any.

10 In addition to the notice requirements, a municipality would be  
11 required to send the owner a certified letter after the completion of  
12 the replacement stating the approximate time that the replacement  
13 occurred, and providing a brief summary of the work performed.

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 5854**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 9, 2019

The Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 5854.

This bill, as amended, would allow a municipality to adopt an ordinance that allows the municipality or municipal water system, or an agent thereof, to enter a property to perform a lead service line replacement after providing notice to the owner and any residents at least 72 hours in advance of the replacement, unless in the case of an emergency as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection. A municipality would not be permitted to enter into a part of the property that is not directly related to performing a lead service line replacement.

The bill requires that the municipality provide notice to the owner and any residents of the property 72 hours before entering the property, which would include an attempt to inform the owner and any residents in person of the date and time of the lead service line replacement. If the owner or a resident is unable to be reached in person, the municipality would be required to send, by certified mail, a letter to the owner and any residents or to post a written notice in a prominent location on the property which letter or notice would have to include:

(a) the scheduled date and time of the lead service line replacement and the identity of the agency that will be performing the replacement;

(b) the likely extent of water service disruption;

(c) nearby locations where the municipality or a public water system is distributing supplementary drinking water, if any; and

(d) any remedies that the municipality will take if the municipality or municipal water system, or an agent thereof, is unable to access the property.

In a municipality in which the primary language of 10 percent or more of the residents is a language other than English, the letter or written notice would have to be provided in English and any other such primary language.

In addition to the notice requirements, a municipality would be required to send the owner a letter, by certified mail, after the completion of the replacement stating the approximate time that the replacement occurred, and providing a brief summary of the work performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments to the bill:

- (1) add a findings and declarations section;
- (2) expand the provisions of the bill to non-residential properties;
- (3) allow a municipal ordinance to authorize a municipal water system or its agent to enter a property to perform a lead service line replacement;
- (4) require that a municipality provide notice to the owner and any residents of the property 72 hours before entering a property to perform a lead service line replacement, unless in the case of an emergency as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection;
- (5) require that, if the notice cannot be made in person, the municipality would be required to send, by certified mail, a letter to the owner and any residents or to post a written notice in a prominent location on the property;
- (6) require that the letter or written notice include the identity of the agency that will be performing the lead service line replacement any remedies that the municipality will take if the municipality or municipal water system, or an agent thereof, is unable to access the property;
- (7) require that the letter or written notice be provided in English and any other language which is the primary language of at least 10 percent of the municipality's residents; and
- (8) amend the definition of "service line" to include a property's water meter, meaning that a municipality could enter the property to replace a water meter under the bill.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5854**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 12, 2019

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5854.

This bill would allow a municipality to adopt an ordinance that allows the municipality or municipal water system, or an agent thereof, to enter a property to perform a lead service line replacement after providing notice to the owner and any residents at least 72 hours in advance of the replacement, unless in the case of an emergency as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection. A municipality would not be permitted to enter into a part of the property that is not directly related to performing a lead service line replacement.

The bill requires that the municipality provide notice to the owner and any residents of the property 72 hours before entering the property, which would include an attempt to inform the owner and any residents in person of the date and time of the lead service line replacement. If the owner or a resident is unable to be reached in person, the municipality would be required to send, by certified mail, a letter to the owner and any residents or to post a written notice in a prominent location on the property which letter or notice would have to include:

(a) the scheduled date and time of the lead service line replacement and the identity of the agency that will be performing the replacement;

(b) the likely extent of water service disruption;

(c) nearby locations where the municipality or a public water system is distributing supplementary drinking water, if any; and

(d) any remedies that the municipality will take if the municipality or municipal water system, or an agent thereof, is unable to access the property.

In a municipality in which the primary language of 10 percent or more of the residents is a language other than English, the letter or written notice would have to be provided in English and any other such primary language.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

# Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Allowing Municipalities to Enter Properties to Perform Lead Service Line Replacements

01/9/2020

**TRENTON** – Governor Phil Murphy today signed legislation that will explicitly allow municipalities to adopt an ordinance to enter properties to perform lead service line replacements, after providing notice to residents. The bill aims to allow for an expedited and timely lead service line replacement process across New Jersey.

“As municipalities around our state replace lead service lines, we must ensure that they have timely access to properties,” **said Governor Murphy**. “This law equips cities and towns with a crucial tool in combatting the nationwide issue of lead in water.”

“The public health threat from aging water infrastructure is a statewide challenge,” said **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe**. “Giving municipal water systems the ability to swiftly replace lead service lines by providing property access is one of the many actions that will help protect public health by reducing the risk of lead exposure in New Jersey.”

“The legislation Governor Murphy signed today on lead service lines is a major step forward in removing these health hazards from all of New Jersey’s municipalities,” **said Newark Mayor Ras Baraka**. “We are pleased that Newark’s partnership with Essex County and the state is removing this risk to our city and residents. Thank you to all of the sponsors of this critical legislation which will ultimately create a safer New Jersey. We hope that this sparks a national policy movement on how all communities should address lead service lines.”

“Our city is taking the lead in addressing our lead service line issue through our ground-breaking ordinance,” **said Kareem Adeem, Acting Water and Sewer Utilities Director for the City of Newark**. “This ordinance has now become an example for our State Legislators and Governor Murphy. Municipal water and sewer utilities agencies across the state can now benefit from Newark’s experience and this statewide legislation to remove lead service lines in their communities. The strong unity and partnership created last year by Newark, Essex County, and New Jersey to replace our city’s 18,000 lead service lines that began in September has enabled us to replace more than 4,000 such pipes. Our combined achievement is therefore becoming a model for our entire state.”

“Throughout the water crises affecting Newark, the only agreed upon measure to completely address the problem was to replace the lead service lines,” **said Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.** “I am happy that Essex County was able to partner with Mayor Baraka to provide the funding to expedite the work without cost to property owners. Providing municipalities with the authority to enter private property supports initiatives by Newark and communities throughout the state to ensure all residents have access to a safe supply of water. I want to thank Governor Murphy and Senator Teresa Ruiz for understanding this important issue and making sure the legislation was passed.”

“This law is crucial for the health and well-being of Essex County residents,” **said Essex County Freeholder Board President Brendan Gill**. “It will allow municipalities such as Newark, Bloomfield, Belleville and Nutley, to further expedite the replacement of all lead service lines. I thank Governor Murphy for his leadership on this issue.”

The legislation signed today permits that a municipality may adopt an ordinance that allows the municipality, or municipal water system, or any agent thereof, to enter a residential property to perform a lead service line replacement, provided that the municipality provides the residents of the property with notice at least 72 hours before entering the property, unless in the case of an emergency as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection. A municipality may not enter into a part of the property that is not directly related to performing a lead service line replacement.



Sponsors of the legislation include Senators Teresa M. Ruiz and Nellie Pou, and Assemblymembers Eliana Pintor Marin, Shanique Speight, and Gary S. Schaer.

"The cost of upgrading our water infrastructure falls disproportionately on older American cities, and it's critical that we create a permanent solution to eliminate the risk of lead in our water for all families. This bill will help municipalities achieve that, even when they are unable to reach property owners. It will give them the authority to pass ordinances permitting entrance into properties without consent in order to replace lead lines," **said Senator Ruiz**. "Especially in communities with large renter populations, this will ensure towns can take action to protect families and individuals living in homes with unresponsive landlords."

"This is about keeping people safe," **said Senator Pou**. "Lead consumption is terribly dangerous, particularly for children, and this legislation is going to be able to give municipalities the ability to confront this crisis head on in some of the poorest and most underserved communities in our state. This is an issue that will need to be tackled on multiple fronts and at all levels of government but this is a good first step and I look forward to working with everyone involved in order to clean up this crisis as quickly as possible."

"This New law will help municipalities address the problem with greater urgency, both in Newark and statewide," **said Assemblywoman Pintor Marin**. "It's an extremely time-sensitive issue and by authorizing municipalities to enter properties to replace lead service lines, we can ensure the job gets done properly and expeditiously."

"Newark has already passed its own ordinance to allow entry onto private property so that the city can begin lead service line replacements," **said Assemblywoman Speight**. "If we implement what is happening locally on a statewide level, we'll be able to maximize the efficiency of our water infrastructure replacement projects and safeguard public health for communities throughout New Jersey."

"Access to clean drinking water is an irrevocable human right, as legislators we must ensure that right for every resident," **said Assemblyman Gary Schaer**. "All lead exposure carries significant health risks, but children are particularly vulnerable to suffering permanent damage. This law empowers municipalities to conduct lead service line replacements, protecting residents from further lifelong effects."

"Knowing where lead service lines are, having the political will and sufficient funds to take action is not enough if you can not gain access to the property to replace the water lines," **stated Amy Goldsmith, State Director, Clean Water Action**. "This is especially true in cities like Newark where most residents (75%) are renters and landlords largely absent. It made all the difference in the world when Newark took it upon themselves to adopt a local ordinance authorizing access. They now are now replacing lead service lines faster, more houses at a time, and at lower cost. This legislation (S4110) is critical to enabling other municipalities to do the same without any legal road blocks. Whether you are a renter or homeowner, everyone deserves equal opportunities and protections from lead poisoning. We thank the legislative sponsors and governor for making this happen."

**TRENTON** - Governor Phil Murphy today signed S4141, also known as "Paul's Law", which will authorize parents or guardians to request the use of an individualized health care plan for students with epilepsy or seizure disorders. The law is named after Paul St. Pierre, a 13-year-old boy from Maple Shade who has epilepsy and advocated for the legislation.

"Every student deserves to learn and thrive in their educational environment, without worrying about their safety," **said Governor Murphy**. "Paul's Law will ensure that the safety of children with seizure disorders is a priority in our schools. I thank Paul and his family for bringing attention to this issue that affects so many parents and children across our state."

The legislation signed today authorizes a parent or guardian of a student with epilepsy or a seizure disorder to request use of an individualized health care plan. This individualized health care plan will be developed for each student by the school nurse, in consultation with the parent or guardian of a student with a seizure disorder and other appropriate medical professionals. The plan will be consistent with the recommendations of the student's health care providers and will outline a set of procedural guidelines that provide specific directions about what to do in an emergency. Additionally, boards of education will be required to ensure that all building staff are trained in the care of students with epilepsy and seizure disorders.

"It is impossible to describe the magnitude of Governor Murphy signing Paul's Law. This law will not only help my son Paul feel safe in school, it will protect 12,000 children in New Jersey that have epilepsy. Furthermore, It will give parents across the state peace of mind while their children are in school," **said Paul St. Pierre, the namesake of the law, and his mother, Colleen Quinn**. "None of this would have been possible without

Senator James Beach who spearheaded this legislation after our initial meeting. He has shown us that citizens, even a 13 year old boy can help to make change in the world. We are forever grateful to him. Lastly, we would like to thank Governor Murphy for signing this legislation into law. Today our governor has made New Jersey only the 5th state in the nation to create seizure safe schools. We would like to thank Governor Murphy for making this law a reality.”

“Schools must provide safe spaces for all children, including students who experience seizure disorders,” **said Dr. Lamont O. Repollet, Commissioner of Education.** “Providing training to staff will enable adults to recognize the early signs of seizures in students and provide them with swift access to the care they need.”

“Approximately 12,000 children in New Jersey have been diagnosed with epilepsy, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control,” **said Department of Health Acting Commissioner Judith Persichilli.** “Paul St. Pierre is a brave young man and I commend him for his advocacy to help protect other children with this neurological disorder. It is critical that teachers, principals and other school personnel receive training in how to recognize and respond to a student experiencing a seizure in school. It’s also important for parents to ensure their child’s school has an up-to-date health plan for their child.”

Primary sponsors of the legislation include Senators Jim Beach and Kip Bateman, and Assemblymembers Mila Jasey, Annette Quijano, and John McKeon.

“As a former teacher, I know that an unexpected crisis can occur at any time during the school day. However, if a student has a seizure disorder, appropriate training, complete information and an individualized health care plan can allow school personnel to be better prepared,” **said Senator Beach.** “Thanks to the advocacy of Paul St. Pierre, this legislation will go a long way in educating our teachers and school personnel on how to handle a situation when one of their students has a seizure, whether it is in the classroom or at an after-school event.”

“There are 12,000 students throughout New Jersey with a seizure disorder,” **said Senator Kip Bateman.** “If you’re the parent of a child with epilepsy, you want to be assured that all teachers, nurses, and school bus drivers are properly trained and can care for your child until advanced medical help arrives. I applaud Paul for his successful advocacy to ensure Garden State schools have the tools to create a ‘seizure smart’ epilepsy action plan which will save lives.”

In a joint statement, **Assemblymembers Jasey, Quijano, and McKeon said:**

“It’s vitally important that New Jersey’s schools and teachers are well-equipped with the tools and knowledge to provide safe, enriching learning environments for students with epilepsy.

“In creating the mechanisms for schools to work with parents and guardians alongside nurses, teachers and administrators, children suffering from seizures would be guaranteed the extra support and care they need to see their full potential in the classroom realized.

“We’d like to give special thanks to Paul St. Pierre, who the bill is named for, and Miranda West, a Columbia High School student and National Epilepsy Foundation teen spokesperson, for their continued advocacy and help in ensuring New Jersey schools are safe for all students.”

“Paul St. Pierre is a leader and a role model for all children living in New Jersey. Paul’s advocacy not only for himself, but for the 12,000 children living with epilepsy in the Garden State, will make our schools a safer place for all children living with epilepsy,” **said Liza Gundell, CEO of the Family Resource Network which includes Epilepsy Services of New Jersey.** “Children spend the majority of their day in school under the care of school personnel and in the company of their peers. Empowering educators and students with knowledge to not only recognize seizures, but the skills to act and treat a student who may be experiencing a seizure can ultimately save a child’s life. Epilepsy Services of New Jersey is proud to provide monthly on-line seizure first aid and recognition training, as well as in-person training for school’s throughout New Jersey. Paul’s Law ensures that all New Jersey Schools are well-equipped with the tools necessary to provide a safe and enriching environment.”