

Arkansas Safe Water Act Fee

The Arkansas "Fee for Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Compliance" is a charge, set at 40 cents per meter/month (as of Act 788 of 2019), that appears on water bills to fund water testing, monitoring, and compliance activities by the Arkansas Department of Health. It covers, for example, lead/copper testing and ensures safe water.

Key Details Regarding the Fee:

- **Purpose:** The fee supports the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) in testing for compliance with federal regulations, including monitoring for contaminants.
- **Rate:** Effective from August 2019, the fee increased to \$0.40 per meter per month.
- **Billing:** The fee is mandatory for public water systems and is labeled specifically on bills as the "Safe Water Act" (LCWW)
- **Legal Basis:** Act 788 of 2019 (amending Arkansas Code § 20-28-105) authorized this fee to address increasing monitoring burdens and ensure safe drinking water.

It is important to distinguish this fee from potential penalties, as violating the Act can result in fines and legal actions against water systems