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*Testimony of Representative Dan Shagoury introducing*  
**LD 1326, An Act to Protect the Drinking Water for Consumers of Certain  
Water Systems by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain  
Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**  
*Before the Health and Human Services Committee*

Good afternoon Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. I am Representative Dan Shagoury, and I represent House District 55 - the communities of Hallowell, Manchester and West Gardiner. I am pleased to present **LD 1326, An Act to Protect the Drinking Water for Consumers of Certain Water Systems by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**.

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of synthetic chemicals used in various products for their ability to resist water, grease and stains. They are known as “forever chemicals” because they persist in the environment and don't break down easily. Because they are so hard to break down, they can build up in the body, and this poses a number of health risks, including kidney cancer, reduced vaccine response, elevated cholesterol, reduced infant birth weight and more.

They are very commonly used and can be found in lots of everyday products like firefighting foam, stain-resistant fabrics and non-stick cookware, to name a few.

Unfortunately, they are also found in a number of public water systems in the state – including the one that serves my home town of Hallowell. PFAS levels in our district had been between the existing limits and the ones called for in this bill, but recent testing has shown it to be higher than even those allowable under the current limits.

Effective water treatment technologies exist to remove PFAS from drinking water, and our water district is on a path to utilize them to provide clean water to all the residences and businesses

served by the district, but it will take time. In the interim, the water district is providing up to five gallons per day of filtered PFAS-free water to the people they serve at their headquarters.

Last year, the Federal EPA set new, lower limits for allowable levels for PFAS in drinking water during their rulemaking process. These new limits are based on the best available science and research into the health impacts of PFAS. The limits in this bill are an attempt to codify the new federal limits in Maine law.

Maine CDC is currently going through the process of rulemaking to adopt these standards for Maine, and it is my understanding that the Department is going to oppose this bill because they feel it is duplicative and may be confusing because some of the specific limits and timelines do not line up with their rulemaking.

I would be very glad to amend this bill to align the timelines, definitions and specific limits with those in the state rules now being designed. I also agree that the definition of who the bill would apply to should be expanded to apply to all federally regulated public water systems, as they recommend.

I do question the contention that this bill is redundant and not required because of the new rules, however. Rather than being duplicative of the state's rulemaking efforts, I see the bill as reinforcing them by showing that it is not just the Department of Health and Human Services that feels these are important, but also the Legislature. I want to make it difficult to make these limits more lax in the future, and putting them into legislation will accomplish that. Changing a rule is not necessarily trivial, but it is easier to accomplish than changing a law.

I look forward to working with the department to accomplish both their goal of avoiding complication and confusion and my goal of strengthening our protection from these dangerous chemicals in our drinking water.

I hope you will join me in supporting this bill. Thank you very much for your time and consideration, and I will be glad to answer any questions.