



SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Alabama Lead Ban Act defines the term "lead-free" to mean not more than certain percentages of lead with respect to solder and flux and with respect to pipes, fittings, joints, and liners.

This bill would revise the percentages as to what constitutes "lead-free."

This bill would require city and county plumbing codes to conform to this revision.

This bill would provide exceptions to certain materials and applications to which lead-free requirements do not apply.

This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Lead Ban Act; to amend Sections 22-37-2 and 22-37-4, Code of Alabama 1975, to revise the



percentages of lead that constitute lead-free with respect to solder, flux, and wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures; to require city and county plumbing codes to conform to this revision; to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style; and to add Section 22-37-7 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to provide certain applications where lead-free requirements do not apply.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 22-37-2 and 22-37-4, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§22-37-2

~~When used in~~For the purposes of this chapter~~and except where the context prohibits~~, the following~~words and~~ terms ~~shall~~ have the following meanings:

(1) COMMISSION. The Alabama Environmental Management Commission~~as created by Section 22-22A-6~~.

(2) DEPARTMENT. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management~~as created by Section 22-22A-4~~.

(3) DIRECTOR. The Director of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

(4) FEDERAL ACT. The federal Safe Drinking Water Act as established by Public Law 93-523 and all subsequent amendments.

(5) LEAD-FREE.

a. With respect to solder and flux, not containing more than 0.2 percent lead.

b. With respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe



fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures, not containing more than a weighted average of 0.25 percent lead.

~~(5)~~ (6) PERSON. The same meaning as defined ~~by~~ in Section ~~22-23-31(8)~~ 22-23-31.

~~(6)~~ (7) PLUMBING CODE. Any established ordinance or code used to establish material standards and construction practices associated with the plumbing of ~~any~~ a house, apartment, or building.

~~(7) SUPPLIER OF WATER. The same as defined by Section 22-23-31(9).~~

(8) PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM. The same meaning as defined ~~by~~ in Section ~~22-23-31(11)~~ 22-23-31.

(9) SUPPLIER OF WATER. The same meaning as defined in Section 22-23-31.

~~(9) LEAD-FREE. A solder or flux containing not more than 0.2 percent lead and pipes, fittings, joints, or liners containing not more than eight percent lead."~~

"§22-37-4

All formally adopted city and county plumbing codes shall be amended within 12 months of May 10, 1988, to include the provisions of this chapter for installation and repair of plumbing facilities. All proposed plumbing codes shall include appropriate lead ban provisions as determined by the department, prior to adoption. Notwithstanding Section 22-37-7, all previously adopted city and county plumbing codes that are inconsistent with the meaning of the term "lead-free" as provided in Section 22-37-2 shall be amended to conform to the term within 12 months after October 1, 2025."



85 Section 2. Section 22-37-7 is added to the Code of
86 Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

87 §22-37-7

88 Any rule adopted pursuant to Section 22-37-3 or
89 prohibition provided in Section 22-37-6 regarding the import,
90 distribution, sale, or use of lead-free materials shall not
91 apply to any of the following:

92 (1) A pipe, pipe fitting, plumbing fitting, or fixture,
93 including a backflow preventer, that is used exclusively for
94 nonpotable services such as manufacturing, industrial
95 processing, irrigation, outdoor watering, or any other use
96 where the water is not anticipated to be used for human
97 consumption.

98 (2) A toilet, bidet, urinal, fill valve, flushometer
99 valve, tub filler, shower valve, fire hydrant, service saddle,
100 or water distribution main gate valve that is two inches in
101 diameter or larger.

102 (3) A clothes washing machine, emergency drench shower,
103 emergency face wash equipment, eyewash device, fire
104 suppression sprinkler, steam capable clothes dryer, or sump
105 pump.

106 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October
107 1, 2025.