3. Finance EBR

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ENROLLED BELL REPORT

AMENDMENT DATE:

August 18, 2000

BILL NUMBER: AB 2723

RECOMMENDATION:

Defer to the California Health and AUTHOR: H. Wesson

Human Services Agency

ASSEMBLY: 49/25

22/12 SENATE:

BILL SUMMARY

This bill would require bottled water and vended water companies to provide product labels, displays, or statements that include either a telephone number of the bottler or brand owner or the bottler's or brand owner's mailing address. In addition, bottlers or water haulers that distribute directly to consumers would be required to provide to new customers, and to existing customers once per year, a statement that bottled water is subject to rules and regulations promulgated by the federal Food and Drug Administration. The statement would also be required to contain the name of the bottler or brand owner and the bottler's or brand owner's telephone number or mailing address. These requirements would become operative on January 1, 2002. The bill also provides that the Department of Health Services (DHS) would be authorized to allow packaging of bottled water in a non-licensed plant in specified public emergencies.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The bill would have a minor or no fiscal impact on the State.

COMMENTS

This bill would have no, or only a minor, absorbable fiscal impact, upon DHS. However, because the decision to veto or sign this bill depends largely on a public health policy issue, the Department of Finance defers to the California Health and Human Services Agency.

Since the Safe Drinking Water Act was amended in 1996, community water systems are required to supply their customers with annual reports regarding the quality of their drinking water. AB 2723 would require bottled water companies to provide similar information.

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