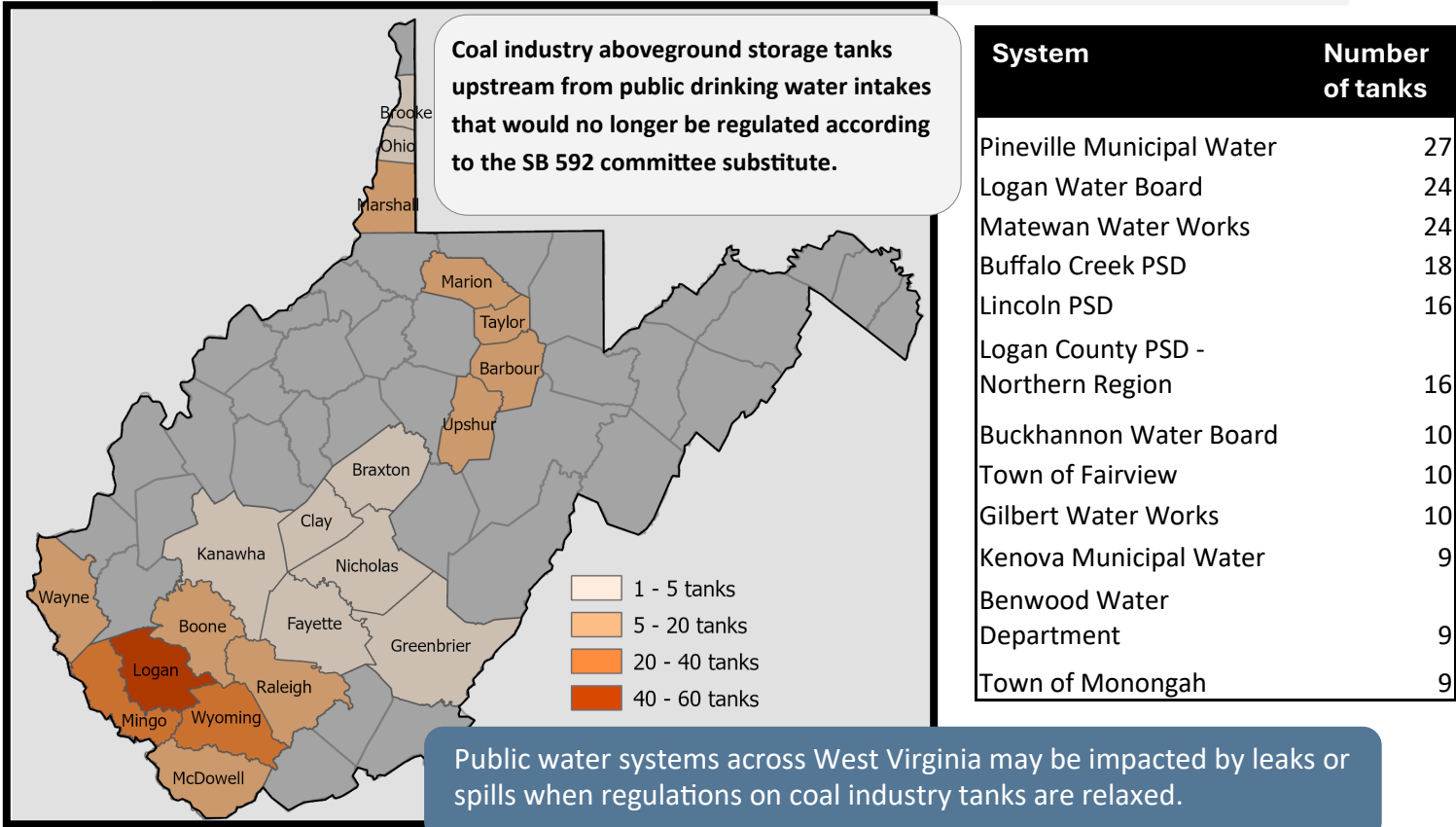


SB 592 would endanger drinking water quality across West Virginia.

PROTECTING DRINKING WATER FROM COAL INDUSTRY TANKS

A committee substitute to SB 592 intends to remove regulations on 232 aboveground storage tanks associated with coal mining permits across 20 counties, which are currently regulated under the Aboveground Storage Tank Act. These coal tanks would be exempted in addition to approximately 700 oil and gas tanks identified in the original SB 592. These tanks contain fluids harmful to human health. Many are upstream from, and close to, public drinking water intakes that draw water from rivers and streams.



Coal industry tanks contain a mixture of chemicals

The list of chemical contents self-reported for the coal tanks includes: Gasoline, Diesel, 1,2,3-Propanetriol, Oil, 4-Methylcyclohexanemethanol (MCHM), Cumene, Xylene, Trimethyl benzene, Phenylethane, Naphthalene, 1,1'-Biphenyl, Cyclohexanemethanol, Ethyl benzene, Toluene, Xylene, Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), tert-Amyl methyl ether (TAME), Ethyl alcohol, 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene, Benzene, and Hexane.

Tanks containing water treatment chemicals, such as sodium hydroxide, have already been exempted in the Aboveground Storage Tank Act.

Many of these chemicals and their breakdown products are harmful to human health at very low concentrations.

The Aboveground Storage Tank Act was created in response to a chemical leak that impacted drinking water for 300,000 West Virginians. The SB 592 Com Sub would exempt tanks containing the same chemical responsible for that catastrophe—MCHM.

Sources: Number of coal industry tanks that would become unregulated derived from DEP's Aboveground Storage Tanks Database provided by DEP Cabinet Secretary in response to FOIA Request by Jennie Smith, March 12, 2025.