

Senate Fiscal Agency
P. O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536



Telephone: (517) 373-5383
Fax: (517) 373-1986
TDD: (517) 373-0543

Senate Bill 106 (as introduced 2-6-01)

Sponsor: Senator Mike Goschka

Committee: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

Date Completed: 2-13-01

CONTENT

The bill would amend Part 53 (Clean Water Assistance) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide that if a water pollution control project requiring assistance from the State Revolving Fund were a sewage treatment works project or a stormwater treatment project, the priority list criteria for project plans submitted by municipalities would have to include a determination of whether a project was necessary to comply with an order, permit, or other document with an enforceable schedule for addressing a municipality's sewage-related water pollution problems that was issued by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or entered as part of an action brought by the State against the municipality. In addition, a municipality could voluntarily agree to an order, permit, or other document with an enforceable schedule.

Under Part 53, if approved by the DEQ, municipalities may receive assistance from the State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund for a sewage treatment works project, a stormwater treatment project, and/or a nonpoint source project. Each year the DEQ must develop priority lists for these projects, based on project plans submitted by municipalities. If a project is a sewage treatment works project or a stormwater treatment project, the priority lists must be based on the following criteria: the severity of the water pollution problem; the population to be served by the project; the dilution ratio existing between the discharge volume and the receiving stream; and a determination of whether a project is or was necessary to comply with an order, permit, or other document issued by the DEQ or entered as part of an action brought by the State against a municipality. Under the bill, this determination would pertain to compliance with an enforceable schedule for addressing a municipality's sewage-related water pollution problems as described above.

BACKGROUND

The State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund provides low-interest loans to assist municipalities in funding wastewater treatment improvements. The projects may include wastewater treatment plant upgrades or expansions, combined sewer overflow abatement, new sewers designed to reduce existing sources of pollution, nonpoint source pollution management measures, and other related wastewater treatment efforts. Qualified municipalities must meet Federal and State program requirements, and demonstrate environmentally sound water pollution control project plans that are drawn from a project priority list administered by the DEQ's Environmental Assistance Division. The project priority list ranks wastewater treatment works projects proposed for construction that require funding assistance. Priority points for the list are assigned on the basis of information contained in the final project plan using the criteria listed above.

MCL 324.5303

Legislative Analyst: N. Nagata

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: P. Graham

S0102\106sa

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.