
Capital Budget Committee

HB 3136

Brief Description: Concerning water pollution control.

Sponsors: Representatives Dunshee, Simpson and Ormsby.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund loans to be used in accordance with federal Clean Water State Revolving Fund appropriation allowances and restrictions.
- Requires that the Department of Ecology give preference to projects that meet stated criteria, and requires the development of rules pertaining to wastewater and stormwater system plans.

Hearing Date: 2/1/10

Staff: Nona Snell (786-7153).

Background:

The Water Pollution Control Revolving Account, also known as State Revolving Fund (SRF), was established by Congress in 1987 under the Federal Clean Water Act to provide low interest loans to local governments for high priority water quality projects. The United States Environmental Protection Agency provides money for the state loan funds.

The Department of Ecology (Department) administers the SRF program. Loans are awarded through a statewide competitive rating and ranking process. The funds are used by cities, counties, tribes, conservation districts, and some qualified non-profit organizations for planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, and improving water pollution control facilities and related activities that help meet state and federal water pollution control requirements.

Congress is currently considering expanding the allowable use of SRF funds.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The conditions for Water Pollution Control Facility loans are expanded to include uses in accordance with federal Clean Water State Revolving Fund appropriation allowances and restrictions.

The Department is directed to give preference to applicants for Water Pollution Control Facility loans that meet specific criteria.

The Department is directed to develop rules and require that sewer plans include elements related to sewer charges and fees, wastewater facilities reserve funds, and sewer use ordinances.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on 1/27/10.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.