State of Misconsin 2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4419/1 MCP:ahe

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 822

January 29, 2016 - Introduced by Representatives KITCHENS, BALLWEG, HORLACHER, KRUG, NERISON, NOVAK and A. OTT, cosponsored by Senator Cowles. Referred to Committee on Environment and Forestry.

- 1 AN ACT to amend 281.75 (4m) (a), 281.75 (7) (a) and 281.75 (7) (b) of the statutes;
- 2 **relating to:** income limits and award limits for contaminated well grants.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill increases the limits on family income and grant awards under this state's well compensation grant program.

Under current law, an individual owner or renter of a contaminated private well may apply for a grant from the Department of Natural Resources to cover a portion of the costs to treat the water, reconstruct the well, construct a new well, connect to a public water supply, or fill and seal (abandon) the well. To be eligible for a grant the well owner or renter's annual family income may not exceed \$65,000. A grant awarded under the program may not exceed 75 percent of a project's eligible costs and may not cover any part of a project's eligible costs that exceeds \$12,000, which means that a grant may not exceed \$9,000. In addition, if the well owner or renter's annual family income exceeds \$45,000, the amount of the award is reduced by 30 percent of the amount by which the annual family income exceeds \$45,000.

This bill increases the family income limit to \$90,000 and increases the grant award limit to 75 percent of \$16,000, which means that a grant under the bill may not exceed \$12,000. The bill also increases the amount of annual family income that triggers a reduction of an award to \$65,000.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 281.75 (4m) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

281.75 **(4m)** (a) In order to be eligible for an award under this section, the annual family income of the landowner or lessee of property on which is located a contaminated water supply or a well subject to abandonment may not exceed \$65,000 \$90,000.

Section 2. 281.75 (7) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

281.75 (7) (a) If the department finds that the claimant meets all the requirements of this section and rules promulgated under this section and that the private water supply is contaminated or that the well is a well subject to abandonment, the department shall issue an award. The award may not pay more than 75% of the eligible costs. The award may not pay any portion of eligible costs in excess of \$12,000 \$16,000.

Section 3. 281.75 (7) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

281.75 (7) (b) If the annual family income of the claimant exceeds \$45,000 \$65,000, the amount of the award is the amount determined under par. (a) less 30% of the amount by which the claimant's income exceeds \$45,000 \$65,000.

17 (END)