

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
COMM 6/22/2005

LRB Number 05-2120/1	Introduction Number AB-449	Estimate Type Original
Subject Management and disposal of septage and municipal sewage sludge		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

AB 449 makes several changes to the requirements regarding private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS). Current POWTS requirements administered by the Department are regulations regarding the installation of POWTS and requirements of local units of government. The Department also administers the Wisconsin Fund, a grant program that provides financial assistance to home and small business owners for the replacement/rehabilitation of POWTS. The changes made by AB 449 to these requirements are as follows:

All governmental units that administer their jurisdiction's POWTS program (typically counties) would be required to institute a maintenance program (i.e., a program that tracks required maintenance activities such as pumping of POWTS constructed on or after the county's adoption of the program, or earlier). The bill directs that the Department develop rules for the maintenance program to be administered. The workload associated with codifying the requirements can be absorbed within the Department's current resources.

AB 449 would require the Department to administer a grant program that would fund up to 70% of the costs of conducting an inventory and developing a program to manage the records associated with a maintenance program (location, design, maintenance schedule). Up to 10% of funds appropriated to s. 20.143 (3) (de) may be appropriated for the purposes indicated in AB449, which would result in the availability of \$299,000. The workload associated with codifying the assistance program, and otherwise implementing and administering the program can be absorbed within current resources.

AB 449 would impact local units of government, specifically counties. Counties would be required to administer a POWTS maintenance program that meets minimum standards. Currently, all but 7 counties have such a program, although there is variation among the programs and some existing programs may not meet the minimum requirements that the Department would establish for maintenance programs. The Department estimates that 30 jurisdictions either do not have a program or do not have a program that would meet minimum requirements. Although up to 70% of certain costs related to implementing a program can be funded by the assistance program indicated in AB 449, the county would be responsible for 30% of those costs. The Department anticipates that the costs to a county of establishing and maintaining an inventory would exceed the amount of assistance funds available for this purpose. Also, counties would be responsible for 100% of other costs related to the maintenance program (e.g., enforcement of POWTS not meeting maintenance requirements). Counties have authority to assess fees to recoup these costs.

Although AB 449 does not specifically require an inventory of POWTS systems, it is anticipated that the maintenance program requirements would include that each county conduct an inventory of POWTS systems located in their jurisdiction. The Department anticipates that a complete inventory would result in an increase in the replacement of POWTS systems, with a corresponding increase in the number of plan reviews conducted by the Department.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2005 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

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Subject			
Management and disposal of septage and municipal sewage sludge			
I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):			
II. Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category			
	State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$0	0
	(FTE Position Changes)	(0.0 FTE)	(0.0 FTE)
	State Operations - Other Costs	0	0
	Local Assistance	0	0
	Aids to Individuals or Organizations	0	0
	TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$0	\$0
B. State Costs by Source of Funds			
	GPR	0	0
	FED	0	0
	PRO/PRS	0	0
	SEG/SEG-S	0	0
III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)			
		Increased Rev	Decreased Rev
	GPR Taxes	\$0	\$0
	GPR Earned	0	0
	FED	0	0
	PRO/PRS	0	0
	SEG/SEG-S	0	0
	TOTAL State Revenues	\$0	\$0
NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT			
		<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>
	NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$0	\$Indeterminate increase
	NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$0	\$Indeterminate increase
Agency/Prepared By		Authorized Signature	Date
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