



State of Wisconsin
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

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2025 ASSEMBLY BILL 131

March 13, 2025 - Introduced by Representatives MURSAU, SWEARINGEN, ARMSTRONG, BEHNKE, FRANKLIN, GREEN, GUNDRUM, B. JACOBSON, KNODL, MAXEY, NOVAK, O'CONNOR, SPIROS, STEFFEN, TUCKER and TUSLER, cosponsored by Senators WIMBERGER, CABRAL-GUEVARA, FELZKOWSKI, NASS and TOMCZYK. Referred to Committee on Environment.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber* 281.58 (8e); *to amend* 281.61 (6) and 281.75 (7) (c) 2. a.;
2 *to create* 66.0811 (4), 196.49 (7), 281.58 (8e) (bm), 281.75 (5m), 292.11 (9) (g),
3 292.315, 292.32 and 292.34 of the statutes; **relating to:** programs and
4 requirements to address PFAS.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates several new programs and requirements relating to PFAS, which is defined in the bill to mean any perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance.

Municipal PFAS grant program

The bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to create a municipal PFAS grant program, which applies only to types of PFAS for which there is a state or federal standard, a public health recommendation from the Department of Health Services, or a health advisory issued by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Under the bill, the municipal PFAS grant program provides all of the following grants:

1. Grants to municipalities (defined under current law as a city, town, village, county, county utility district, town sanitary district, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district, or metropolitan sewage district) for PFAS testing at municipal water systems and municipal wastewater treatment facilities, or for reimbursement for such testing if performed at properties owned, leased, managed,

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or contracted for by municipalities and if there are promulgated standards for those types of PFAS.

2. Grants to nonmunicipal entities regulated as public or community water systems, distributed in equal shares up to \$1,800, to test their drinking water supply for PFAS, if required to do so by DNR, or for reimbursement for such testing.

3. Grants to privately owned landfills, in equal shares up to \$15,000, to test for the presence of PFAS in leachate.

4. Grants to municipalities to test for PFAS levels at municipally owned, leased, managed, or contracted locations where PFAS may be present, including testing for PFAS levels in leachate at landfills. If the property to be tested is not owned by the municipality, DNR may not issue a grant unless the property owner gives the municipality written consent to enter the property and conduct testing. These grants are not available to municipalities that receive a grant under this program to test for PFAS at municipal water systems and municipal wastewater treatment facilities. For these grants, DNR may require matching funds of up to 20 percent from the applicant.

5. Grants to municipalities and privately owned landfills to dispose of PFAS-containing biosolids or leachate at facilities that accept such biosolids or leachate or to purchase and install on-site treatment systems to address PFAS contained in biosolids or leachate. For these grants, DNR may require matching funds of up to 20 percent from the applicant and the grants may not be used for costs associated with landspreading.

6. Grants for capital costs or debt service, including for facility upgrades or new infrastructure, to municipalities that are small or disadvantaged or in which rates for water or wastewater utilities will increase by more than 20 percent as a direct result of steps taken to address PFAS contamination. When issuing these grants, DNR must give priority to projects that are necessary to address an exceedence of an applicable state or federal standard.

7. Grants to municipalities for capital costs or other costs related to PFAS that are not otherwise paid from the segregated environmental improvement fund, including costs for addressing landfills or other contaminated lands owned, leased, managed, or contracted for by municipalities or costs incurred by fire departments; grants to municipalities for the preparation and implementation of pollutant minimization plans; and grants to municipalities for costs incurred by public utilities or metropolitan sewerage districts for pretreatment or other PFAS reduction measures in certain circumstances. For these grants, DNR may require matching funds of up to 20 percent from the applicant.

For all of the grants provided under the municipal PFAS grant program, DNR may not require a grant recipient to take any action to address PFAS unless PFAS levels exceed any applicable standard under state or federal law. The bill also prohibits DNR from publicly disclosing the results of any PFAS testing conducted under this grant program unless DNR notifies the grant recipient at least 72 hours before publicly disclosing any test result, with certain exceptions.

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Current law provides that whenever a state agency is authorized to provide state funds to any county, city, village, or town for any purpose, funds may also be granted by that agency to any federally recognized tribal governing body for the same purpose.

Innocent landowner grant program

The bill also requires DNR to create an innocent landowner grant program, which applies only to types of PFAS for which there is a state or federal standard, a public health recommendation from the Department of Health Services, or a health advisory issued by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Under the program, DNR may provide grants to an eligible person or to a person who is applying on behalf of multiple eligible persons that are located in the same geographic region, if the applicant will be the entity performing any authorized activities. Under the program, an “eligible person” is 1) a person that spread biosolids or wastewater residuals contaminated by PFAS in compliance with any applicable license or permit, 2) a person that owns land upon which biosolids or wastewater residuals contaminated by PFAS were spread in compliance with any applicable license or permit, 3) a fire department, public-use airport, or municipality that responded to emergencies that required the use of PFAS or that conducted training for such emergencies in compliance with applicable federal regulations, 4) a solid waste disposal facility that accepted PFAS, and 5) a person that owns, leases, manages, or contracts for property on which the PFAS contamination did not originate, unless the person also owns, leases, manages, or contracts for the property on which the PFAS discharge originated.

The total amount of grants awarded to each eligible person may not exceed \$250,000 and DNR may require grant recipients to provide matching funds of not more than 5 percent of the grant amount.

Under current law provisions known as the “spills law,” a person that possesses or controls a hazardous substance or that causes the discharge of a hazardous substance must notify DNR immediately, restore the environment to the extent practicable, and minimize the harmful effects from the discharge. If action is not being adequately taken, or the identity of the person responsible for the discharge is unknown, DNR may take emergency action to contain or remove the hazardous substance; the person that possessed or controlled the hazardous substance that was discharged or that caused the discharge of the hazardous substance must then reimburse DNR for expenses DNR incurred in taking such emergency actions. The spills law allows DNR to enter property to take emergency action if entry is necessary to prevent increased environmental damages, and to inspect any record relating to a hazardous substance for the purpose of determining compliance with the spills law. DNR may also require that preventive measures be taken by any person possessing or having control over a hazardous substance if existing control measures are inadequate to prevent discharges.

Spills law exemptions

Under the bill, if a person is eligible for a grant under the innocent landowner

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grant program, the person is exempt from all of the provisions under the spills law described above with respect to PFAS contamination, if the person grants DNR permission to remediate the land at DNR's expense.

If a person is not eligible for a grant under the innocent landowner grant program, the person is exempt from all of the provisions under the spills law described above, based on the results of any PFAS testing conducted on samples taken from lands not owned by the state, unless PFAS levels violate any applicable state or federal law, including any standard promulgated under state or federal law.

Limitations on DNR actions relating to PFAS

Under the bill, DNR may not prevent, delay, or otherwise impede any construction project or project of public works based on a presence of PFAS contamination unless DNR determines that 1) the project poses a substantial risk to public health or welfare, 2) there is a substantial risk that the project will create worsening environmental conditions, 3) the entity proposing to complete the project is responsible for the original contamination, as a result of conduct that was reckless or was done with the intent to discharge PFAS into the environment, or 4) DNR is specifically required under the federal Clean Water Act to prevent, delay, or otherwise impede the project. "Public works" is defined to mean the physical structures and facilities developed or acquired by a local unit of government or a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state to provide services and functions for the benefit and use of the public, including water, sewerage, waste disposal, utilities, and transportation, and privately owned landfills that accept residential waste.

In addition, under the bill, if DNR seeks to collect samples from lands not owned by the state based on permission from the landowner, such permission must be in writing, and DNR must notify the landowner that such permission includes the authority to collect samples, to test those samples, and to publicly disclose the results of that testing. The landowner may revoke such permission at any time prior to the collection of samples. Under the bill, DNR also may not publicly disclose such PFAS testing results unless it notifies the landowner of the test results at least 72 hours before publicly disclosing them.

The bill also requires DNR, or a third-party contract by DNR, to respond in a timely manner to requests from any person to conduct PFAS testing on samples taken from the person's property if practicable and if funds are available to do so, if there is a reasonable belief that PFAS contamination may be present on the property, and if existing information such as public water supply testing data is not available.

The bill also requires DNR, in the 2025-27 fiscal biennium, to increase its voluntary PFAS testing activities.

Firefighting foam

The bill requires DNR to survey or resurvey local fire departments about their use and possession of PFAS-containing firefighting foam, send communications and

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information regarding PFAS-containing firefighting foam, and contract with a third party to voluntarily collect PFAS-containing firefighting foam.

Well compensation grant program

Under current law, an individual owner or renter of a contaminated private well, subject to eligibility requirements, may apply for a grant from DNR 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 the well. The bill provides that a grant for costs to treat the water may be used to cover the cost of a filtration device and up to two replacement filters.

In addition, under the bill, if DNR determines that a claimant who is applying for a grant under the well compensation grant program on the basis of PFAS contamination would be eligible for a grant under the innocent landowner grant program created under the bill, and funding under that program is available, DNR must refer the claimant's application to that program instead of processing it under the well compensation grant program. If the claimant is denied under the innocent landowner grant program, DNR must refer the claim back to the well compensation grant program.

Portable water treatment system pilot project

The bill requires DNR to contract with an entity to conduct a pilot project in which PFAS-contaminated surface water is partially or fully diverted to a portable treatment system and treated water is returned to the surface water. DNR and the entity must conduct tests to evaluate the success of the pilot project.

Remedial action at sites contaminated by PFAS

The bill allows DNR, or a contracted third party, to begin response and remedial actions, including site investigations, at any PFAS-contaminated site where a responsible party has not been identified or where the responsible party qualifies for a grant under the innocent landowner grant program. The bill directs DNR to prioritize response and remedial actions at sites that have the highest levels of PFAS contamination and sites with the greatest threats to public health or the environment because of PFAS.

Assistance for testing laboratories

The bill requires DNR and the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System to enter into a memorandum of understanding to ensure that the state laboratory of hygiene provides guidance and other materials, conducts training, and provides assistance to laboratories in this state that are certified to test for contaminants other than PFAS in order for them to become certified to test for PFAS, and to assist laboratories certified to test for PFAS in this state to reduce their testing costs and shorten the timeline for receiving test results.

Under the bill, the Board of Regents, in coordination with DNR, may provide grants to laboratories in this state that are certified to test for PFAS, or that are seeking such certification, to assist with up to 40 percent of the costs of purchasing equipment necessary for testing for PFAS.

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The bill requires the state laboratory of hygiene to prepare a report on these efforts and provide the report to the legislature.

PFAS studies and reporting

The bill requires DNR and the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System to enter into a memorandum of understanding to 1) study and analyze the cost, feasibility, and effectiveness of different methods of treating PFAS before they are released into a water system or water body; 2) conduct a cost-benefit analysis of different options for disposing of biosolids or sludge that contains or may contain PFAS; 3) study and analyze the cost, feasibility, and effectiveness of different destruction and disposal methods for PFAS; 4) study and analyze the cost, feasibility, and effectiveness of different methods for remediating PFAS that leave the contaminated medium in place and methods that remove the contaminated medium; 5) study and analyze the migration of PFAS into the bay of Green Bay; 6) study and analyze the migration of PFAS into the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers and their tributaries; 7) conduct any additional studies related to PFAS, as approved by the Joint Committee on Finance; and 8) create a comprehensive, interactive map showing all available PFAS testing data and, for each data point, whether it exceeds any applicable state or federal standard for PFAS. Such data may not contain any personally identifiable information unless the entity to which the data applies is a municipal entity that is required to test and disclose its results under state law.

DNR reporting requirements

The bill requires DNR to report to the legislature once every six months for a period of three years to provide a detailed description of DNR's expenditures under the bill and a detailed description of DNR's progress in implementing the provisions of the bill.

Clean Water Fund Program and Safe Drinking Water Loan Program

Under current law, the Department of Administration and DNR administer the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP), which provides financial assistance to municipalities, and to the private owners of community water systems that serve municipalities, for projects that will help the municipalities comply with federal drinking water standards. DNR establishes a funding priority list for SDWLP projects, and DOA allocates funding for those projects. Also under current law, DNR administers the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP), which provides financial assistance to municipalities for projects to control water pollution, such as sewage treatment plants.

Under the bill, if DNR, when ranking SDWLP or CWFP projects or determining an applicant's eligibility for assistance under those programs, considers whether an applicant that intends to extend service outside municipal boundaries because of water contamination is "small" or "disadvantaged," DNR must determine the applicant to be small or disadvantaged if the area receiving the extended service would normally be determined to be small or disadvantaged,

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regardless of whether the existing service area would normally be determined to be small or disadvantaged.

Public water utility projects

Under current law, a public utility may not engage in certain construction, expansion, or other projects unless the Public Service Commission grants a certificate of authority (CA) for the proposed project. Under the bill, if a water public utility or a combined water and sewer public utility (water utility) fails to obtain a CA before commencing a project for which one is required, PSC may not investigate, impose a penalty against, or bring an action to enjoin the water utility if 1) the water utility undertook the project in response to a public health concern caused by PFAS, the presence of which was unknown to the water utility until shortly before it commenced the project, and the water utility provides evidence showing that the utility has exceeded or is likely to exceed the applicable state or federal standard for that type of PFAS; 2) the water utility promptly notifies PSC of the work and, within 30 days after commencing the work, submits the appropriate application and supporting documentation to PSC; and 3) the total cost of the project is not greater than \$2,000,000.

In the PSC administrative code, the bill adds an emergency resulting from water supply contamination to the circumstances under which PSC authorization is not necessary prior to a utility beginning necessary repair work. The current administrative code limits this to an emergency resulting from the failure of power supply or from fire, storm, or similar events.

Use of revenue for PFAS source reduction measures

The bill authorizes a municipal public utility or metropolitan sewerage district to use revenues from its water or sewerage services for up to half of the cost of pretreatment or other PFAS source reduction measures for an interconnected customer or other regular customer if the costs incurred are less than the costs of the upgrades otherwise required at the endpoint treatment facility and if the costs are approved by the governing body of the municipality or the metropolitan sewerage district.

Test wells for community water systems

Under rules promulgated by DNR relating to community water systems (a system for providing piped water for human consumption to the public and that serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents), DNR must preapprove any test wells that will be converted into permanent wells and any test wells that will pump at least 70 gallons per minute for more than 72 hours. DNR rules require test wells to be drilled for permanent wells for community water systems to determine geologic formation information and water quality and quantity data. DNR rules also allow DNR to designate special well casing depth areas within which wells must be drilled to a greater depth and meet other requirements to avoid contamination.

This bill provides that test wells for community water systems must also be

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approved by DNR if they are located in special well casing depth areas that have been designated based in whole or in part on the presence of PFAS.

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

SECTION 1. 66.0811 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

66.0811 (4) Notwithstanding subs. (2) and (3) and s. 66.0901 (11), a municipal public utility or a metropolitan sewerage district created under ch. 200 may use funds derived from its water or sewerage services for up to one-half the cost of pretreatment or other perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances source reduction measures for an interconnected customer or other regular customer if the costs incurred are less than the costs of the upgrades otherwise required at the endpoint treatment facility and if the costs are approved by the governing body of the municipality or the metropolitan sewerage district.

SECTION 2. 196.49 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

196.49 (7) With respect to a water public utility or a combined water and sewer public utility, the commission may not investigate, impose a penalty against, or bring an action to enjoin the public utility for failing to obtain a certificate of authority before commencing a project for which one is required under this section if all of the following apply:

(a) The public utility undertook the project in response to a public health concern caused by PFAS, as defined in s. 292.315 (1), the presence of which was unknown to the public utility until shortly before it commenced the project, and the public utility provides evidence showing that the utility has exceeded or is likely to exceed the applicable promulgated state or federal standard for that type of PFAS.

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1 (b) The public utility promptly notifies the commission of the work and,
2 within 30 days after commencing the work, submits the appropriate application
3 and supporting documentation to the commission.

4 (c) The total cost of the project is not greater than \$2,000,000.

5 **SECTION 3.** 281.58 (8e) of the statutes is renumbered 281.58 (8e) (am).

6 **SECTION 4.** 281.58 (8e) (bm) of the statutes is created to read:

7 281.58 **(8e)** (bm) If the department, when ranking projects under this
8 subsection or determining an applicant's eligibility for assistance under this
9 section, considers whether an applicant that intends to extend service outside the
10 boundaries of a municipality because of water contamination is small or
11 disadvantaged, the department shall, to the extent allowable under federal law,
12 determine the applicant to be small or disadvantaged if the area receiving the
13 extended service would normally be determined to be small or disadvantaged,
14 regardless of whether the existing service area would normally be determined to be
15 small or disadvantaged.

16 **SECTION 5.** 281.61 (6) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 281.61 **(6)** PRIORITY LIST. The department shall establish a priority list that
18 ranks each safe drinking water loan program project. The department shall
19 promulgate rules for determining project rankings that, to the extent possible, give
20 priority to projects that address the most serious risks to human health, that are
21 necessary to ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 USC 300f to
22 300j-26, and that assist applicants that are most in need on a per household basis,
23 according to affordability criteria specified in the rules. For the purpose of ranking

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1 projects under this subsection, the department shall treat a project to upgrade a
2 public water system to provide continuous disinfection of the water that it
3 distributes as if the public water system were a surface water system that federal
4 law requires to provide continuous disinfection. If the department, when ranking
5 projects under this subsection or determining an applicant's eligibility for
6 assistance under this section, considers whether an applicant that intends to
7 extend service outside the boundaries of a local governmental unit because of water
8 contamination is small or disadvantaged, the department shall, to the extent
9 allowable under federal law, determine the applicant to be small or disadvantaged
10 if the area receiving the extended service would normally be determined to be small
11 or disadvantaged, regardless of whether the existing service area would normally
12 be determined to be small or disadvantaged.

13 **SECTION 6.** 281.75 (5m) of the statutes is created to read:

14 281.75 (5m) REFERRAL TO THE INNOCENT LANDOWNER GRANT PROGRAM. If the
15 department determines that a claimant that submits a claim under this section on
16 the basis of contamination by perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances would be
17 eligible for a grant under the innocent landowner grant program under s. 292.34,
18 and moneys are available under s. 292.34, the department shall refer the claim to
19 the program under s. 292.34 instead of reviewing the claim under this section. If
20 the claimant's claim is denied under s. 292.34, the department shall refer the claim
21 back to the program under this section.

22 **SECTION 7.** 281.75 (7) (c) 2. a. of the statutes is amended to read:

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1 281.75 (7) (c) 2. a. Equipment used for treating the water, including a
2 filtration device and up to 2 replacement filters;

3 **SECTION 8.** 292.11 (9) (g) of the statutes is created to read:

4 292.11 (9) (g) 1. In this section, “PFAS” means any perfluoroalkyl or
5 polyfluoroalkyl substance.

6 2. All of the persons eligible for an innocent landowner grant under s. 292.34
7 (3) (a) to (e) are exempt from subs. (3), (4), and (7) (b) and (c) with respect to PFAS
8 contamination if the person grants permission to the department to remediate the
9 land at the department’s expense.

10 3. A person not otherwise exempt under subd. 2. is exempt from subs. (3), (4),
11 and (7) (b) and (c) with respect to PFAS contamination based on the results of PFAS
12 testing on samples taken from lands not owned by the state, unless that testing
13 demonstrates that PFAS levels violate any applicable state or federal law, including
14 any standard promulgated under state or federal law. This subdivision does not
15 limit the ability of a landowner or other authorized party to voluntarily take
16 remedial action based on PFAS test results collected by the department.

17 **SECTION 9.** 292.315 of the statutes is created to read:

18 **292.315 Municipal PFAS grant program. (1) DEFINITION.** In this section,
19 “PFAS” means any perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance.

20 **(1m) APPLICABILITY.** This section applies only to PFAS for which there is a
21 state or federal standard, a public health recommendation from the department of
22 health services under s. 160.07, or a health advisory issued by the federal
23 environmental protection agency.

24 **(2) GRANTS.** The department shall provide all of the following grants:

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1 (a) Grants to municipalities to test for PFAS levels at municipal water
2 systems and municipal wastewater treatment facilities, or to reimburse
3 municipalities for PFAS testing performed at properties owned, leased, managed,
4 or contracted for by those municipalities after applicable standards for the chemical
5 being tested have been promulgated. The department shall base the amount of
6 grant awards under this paragraph on the cost of testing and the amount of testing
7 needed in each community, while ensuring that funding is available to every
8 eligible applicant that submits a claim under this paragraph. The department may
9 not require a municipality that submits a claim for a grant under this paragraph to
10 provide information other than the basic information necessary to process the claim
11 and may not require the recipient of a grant under this paragraph to provide any
12 matching funds.

13 (b) Grants, provided in equal shares not to exceed \$1,800, to entities that are
14 not municipalities and that are regulated as public or community water systems for
15 the entity to test its drinking water supply for PFAS if required to do so by the
16 department, or for reimbursement to the entity for PFAS testing performed after
17 applicable standards for the chemical being tested have been promulgated. An
18 entity that is not a municipality may apply to the department one time for a grant
19 under this paragraph, by a deadline set by the department. The department may
20 not require the recipient of a grant under this paragraph to provide any matching
21 funds.

22 (c) Grants, provided in equal shares not to exceed \$15,000, to the owner or
23 manager of, or the holder of a solid waste facility license issued by the department

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1 for, privately owned solid waste disposal facilities to test for the presence of PFAS in
2 leachate. An entity may apply to the department one time for a grant under this
3 paragraph, by a deadline set by the department. The department may not require
4 the recipient of a grant under this paragraph to provide any matching funds.

5 (d) Grants to municipalities to test for PFAS levels at locations that are
6 owned, leased, managed, or contracted for by a municipality and where PFAS may
7 be present, including airports, water systems, wastewater treatment facilities, or
8 contaminated lands, and to test for PFAS levels in leachate at solid waste disposal
9 facilities that are owned, leased, managed, or contracted for by a municipality. If
10 the property is not owned by the municipality, the department may not issue a
11 grant under this paragraph unless the property owner has given the municipality
12 written consent for the municipality to enter the property and conduct testing or
13 the ability to enter the property and conduct testing is permitted under an existing
14 agreement between the property owner and the municipality. The department may
15 not provide a grant under this paragraph to test for PFAS in a water system or
16 wastewater treatment facility if the applicant has received a grant under par. (a),
17 unless the applicant demonstrates that it has used all of the grant funds provided
18 to it under par. (a). The department shall accept applications for grants and
19 provide grants under this paragraph on a rolling basis. The department may not
20 require the recipient of a grant under this paragraph to provide matching funds in
21 an amount greater than 20 percent of the amount of the grant.

22 (e) Grants to municipalities and the owner or manager of, or the holder of a
23 solid waste facility license issued by the department for, privately owned solid waste

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1 disposal facilities to dispose of PFAS-containing biosolids or leachate at facilities
2 that accept such biosolids or leachate or to purchase and install on-site treatment
3 systems to address PFAS contained in biosolids or leachate. Grant moneys received
4 under this paragraph may not be used for any cost associated with landspreading.
5 The department may not require the recipient of a grant under this paragraph to
6 provide matching funds in an amount greater than 20 percent of the amount of the
7 grant.

8 (f) Grants for capital costs or debt service, including for facility upgrades or
9 new infrastructure, to municipalities that are small or disadvantaged or in which
10 rates for water or wastewater utilities will increase by more than 20 percent as a
11 direct result of steps taken to address PFAS contamination. A grant provided
12 under this paragraph may not exceed 50 percent of the municipality's capital or
13 debt service costs, and no municipality may receive grants under this paragraph
14 that total more than 20 percent of the funding available for grants under this
15 paragraph. The department shall give priority under this paragraph to projects
16 that are necessary to address an exceedance of an applicable promulgated state or
17 federal standard. The department shall accept applications for grants and provide
18 grants under this paragraph on a rolling basis. A municipality may submit an
19 application for a grant under this program at the same time as submitting an
20 application for financial assistance under s. 281.58 or 281.61.

21 (g) Grants to municipalities for capital costs or other costs related to PFAS
22 that are not otherwise paid from the environmental improvement fund, including
23 costs for addressing solid waste disposal facilities or other contaminated lands

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1 owned, leased, managed, or contracted for by the municipality and costs incurred by
2 fire departments, including to replace PFAS-containing firefighting foam; grants to
3 municipalities for the preparation and implementation of pollutant minimization
4 plans; and grants to municipalities for costs incurred by municipal public utilities
5 or metropolitan sewerage districts created under ch. 200 for pretreatment or other
6 PFAS source reduction measures for an interconnected customer or other regular
7 customer if the costs incurred are less than the costs of the upgrades otherwise
8 required at the endpoint treatment facility and if the costs are approved by the
9 governing body of the municipality or the metropolitan sewerage district. No
10 municipality may receive grants under this paragraph that total more than 20
11 percent of the funding available for grants under this paragraph. The department
12 may not require the recipient of a grant under this paragraph to provide matching
13 funds in an amount greater than 20 percent of the amount of the grant. The
14 department shall accept applications for grants and provide grants under this
15 paragraph on a rolling basis.

16 (3) LIMITATIONS. (a) The department may not require the recipient of a grant
17 under sub. (2) to take action to address PFAS contamination unless testing
18 demonstrates that PFAS levels exceed the amount allowed under any applicable
19 state or federal law, including any standard promulgated under state or federal law.

20 (b) The department may not publicly disclose the results of any PFAS testing
21 conducted under this section unless the department notifies the grant recipient at
22 least 72 hours before publicly disclosing any test result. This paragraph does not
23 apply to any testing required or conducted under ch. 281 or 283.

ASSEMBLY BILL 131**SECTION 10**

1 **SECTION 10.** 292.32 of the statutes is created to read:

2 **292.32 Limitations on department actions relating to PFAS. (1)**

3 DEFINITIONS. In this section:

4 (a) “Construction project” means a building project that will affect one or
5 more parcels.

6 (b) “PFAS” has the meaning given in s. 292.315 (1).

7 (c) “Public works” means the physical structures and facilities developed or
8 acquired by a local unit of government or a federally recognized American Indian
9 tribe or band in this state to provide services and functions for the benefit and use
10 of the public, including water, sewerage, waste disposal, utilities, and
11 transportation, and privately owned solid waste disposal facilities that accept
12 residential waste.

13 **(2) CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.** Notwithstanding any conflicting provisions of
14 this chapter, the department may not prevent, delay, or otherwise impede any
15 construction project or project of public works on the basis of a presence of PFAS
16 contamination unless the department determines any of the following:

17 (a) The project poses a substantial risk to public health or welfare.

18 (b) There is a substantial risk that the project will create worsening
19 environmental conditions.

20 (c) The entity proposing to complete the project is responsible for the original
21 contamination, as a result of conduct that was reckless or was done with the intent
22 to discharge PFAS into the environment.

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1 (d) The department is specifically required under the federal Clean Water Act
2 to prevent, delay, or otherwise impede the project.

3 (3) PFAS TESTING ON NONSTATE LANDS. If department staff or a 3rd-party
4 entity contracted by the department seeks to conduct voluntary testing under this
5 chapter for PFAS, all of the following shall apply:

6 (a) If the department, or an entity contracted by the department, seeks to
7 collect voluntary samples from lands not owned by the state based on permission
8 from the landowner, such permission shall be in writing, and the department shall
9 notify the landowner that such permission includes the authority to collect samples,
10 to test those samples, and to publicly disclose the results of that testing. A
11 landowner may revoke such permission at any time prior to the collection of
12 samples.

13 (b) The department may not publicly disclose the results of any PFAS testing
14 conducted on samples taken from lands not owned by the state unless the
15 department notifies the landowner of the test results at least 72 hours before
16 publicly disclosing the test results.

17 (4) PFAS TESTING REQUESTS. The department shall, in a timely manner,
18 respond to requests from any person to conduct PFAS testing on samples taken
19 from the person's property if practicable and if funds are available to do so, if there
20 is a reasonable belief that PFAS contamination may be present on the property, and
21 if existing information such as public water supply testing data is not available.
22 The department may contract with a 3rd party to respond to requests for testing
23 under this subsection.

ASSEMBLY BILL 131**SECTION 11**

1 **SECTION 11.** 292.34 of the statutes is created to read:

2 **292.34 Innocent landowner grant program; limitations on**
3 **enforcement action.** (1) In this section, "PFAS" has the meaning given in s.
4 292.315 (1).

5 **(1m)** This section applies only to PFAS for which there is a state or federal
6 standard, a public health recommendation from the department of health services
7 under s. 160.07, or a health advisory issued by the federal environmental protection
8 agency.

9 **(2)** The department shall administer a program under which the department
10 may provide a grant to an eligible person under sub. (3) or to a person who is
11 applying on behalf of multiple eligible persons that are located in the same
12 geographic region and that will be conducting similar activities under sub. (4), if the
13 applicant will be the entity conducting the activities under sub. (4).

14 **(3)** All of the following are persons eligible for a grant under this section:

15 (a) A person that spread biosolids or wastewater residuals contaminated by
16 PFAS in compliance with any applicable license or permit.

17 (b) A person that owns land upon which biosolids or wastewater residuals
18 contaminated by PFAS were spread in compliance with any applicable license or
19 permit.

20 (c) A fire department, public-use airport, as defined in s. 114.002 (18m), or
21 municipality that responded to an emergency that required the use of PFAS or that
22 conducted training for such an emergency in compliance with applicable federal
23 regulations.

24 (d) A solid waste disposal facility that accepted PFAS.

ASSEMBLY BILL 131**SECTION 11**

1 (e) A person that owns, leases, manages, or contracts for property on which
2 the PFAS contamination did not originate, unless the person also owns, leases,
3 manages, or contracts for the property on which the PFAS discharge originated.

4 (4) Grants under this section may be used to cover costs associated with
5 additional testing; environmental studies; engineering reports; clean drinking
6 water supplies, including temporary potable water, filtration, well replacement, or
7 interconnection to a municipal water supply; remediation costs; and any other cost
8 resulting from landspreading of contaminated biosolids, detection of groundwater
9 contamination, or other contamination events affecting the property.

10 (5) The department shall accept applications for grants and award grants
11 under this section on a rolling basis.

12 (6) Grants awarded under this section may not exceed \$250,000 for each
13 eligible person. The department may require the recipient of a grant under this
14 section to provide matching funds in an amount not to exceed 5 percent of the
15 amount of the grant.

16 **SECTION 12.** NR 811.12 (1) (g) 2. of the administrative code is renumbered NR
17 811.12 (1) (g) 2. (intro.) and amended to read:

18 NR 811.12 (1) (g) 2. (intro.) ~~Test wells to be converted to permanent wells or~~
19 ~~test wells to be pumped at a rate of 70 gallons per minute or more for a period of~~
20 ~~more than 72 hours~~ All of the following test wells shall be approved by the
21 department prior to their construction;

22 **SECTION 13.** NR 811.12 (1) (g) 2. a., b. and c. of the administrative code are
23 created to read:

ASSEMBLY BILL 131**SECTION 13**

NR 811.12 (1) (g) 2. a. Test wells to be converted to permanent wells.

b. Test wells to be pumped at a rate of 70 gallons per minute or more for a period of more than 72 hours.

c. Test wells located in special well casing depth areas that are designated by the department as special well casing depth areas based in whole or in part on the presence of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances. Approval under this subd. 2. c. shall include review and approval of specifications and plans relating to drilling, well casing, and filling and sealing.

SECTION 14. PSC 184.06 of the administrative code is amended to read:

PSC 184.06 Emergency work. In case of an emergency resulting from the failure of power supply or from fire, storm, or similar events, a utility may begin necessary repair work without receiving prior commission authorization. In case of an emergency resulting from the contamination of water supply, a utility may begin necessary repair, temporary treatment, or other emergency work to address the issue without receiving prior commission authorization. The utility shall promptly notify the commission of the emergency work and shall, within 30 days after commencing the work, furnish the commission with the information required under s. PSC 184.04 (3).

SECTION 15. Nonstatutory provisions.

(1) **PORTABLE TREATMENT SYSTEM PILOT.** The department of natural resources shall contract with an entity to conduct a pilot project in which surface water is partially or fully diverted to a portable treatment system and treated water is returned to the surface water. Project activities under this subsection shall be

ASSEMBLY BILL 131**SECTION 15**

1 conducted at locations with surface water with the highest concentration of
2 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances and where a responsible party has not
3 been identified or the responsible party is unable to pay for remediation. The
4 department of natural resources and the entity contracted under this subsection
5 shall evaluate the success of the pilot project by conducting tests upstream and
6 downstream of the locations where the portable treatment system is used.

7 (2) REMEDIAL ACTION AT SITES CONTAMINATED BY PFAS. The department of
8 natural resources may begin response and remedial actions, including site
9 investigations, at any site contaminated by perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl
10 substances where a responsible party has not been identified or where the
11 responsible party qualifies as an innocent landowner under s. 292.34. The
12 department of natural resources may contract with a 3rd party to conduct response
13 and remedial actions under this subsection. The department of natural resources
14 shall prioritize response and remedial actions at sites with the highest levels of
15 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances and sites with the greatest threats to
16 public health or the environment as a result of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl
17 substances.

18 (3) PFAS TESTING LABORATORIES.

19 (a) The department of natural resources and the Board of Regents of the
20 University of Wisconsin System shall enter into a memorandum of understanding
21 to jointly ensure that the state laboratory of hygiene provides guidance and other
22 materials, conducts training, and provides assistance to laboratories in this state
23 that are certified under s. 299.11 (7) to test for contaminants other than

ASSEMBLY BILL 131**SECTION 15**

1 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances to become certified under s. 299.11 (7)
2 to test for perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, and to assist laboratories in
3 this state that are certified under s. 299.11 (7) to test for perfluoroalkyl or
4 polyfluoroalkyl substances in reducing the costs of such testing and shortening the
5 timeline for receiving such testing results.

6 (b) The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, in
7 coordination with the department of natural resources, may provide grants to
8 laboratories in this state that are certified under s. 299.11 (7) to test for
9 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, or that are seeking such certification,
10 to assist with the cost of purchasing equipment necessary for testing for
11 perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances. A grant under this paragraph may
12 not exceed 40 percent of the cost of such equipment. All laboratories in this state
13 that are certified under s. 299.11 (7) to test for perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl
14 substances, or that are seeking such certification, shall be given equal opportunity
15 to receive a grant under this paragraph.

16 (c) The state laboratory of hygiene shall prepare a report on its efforts under
17 this subsection and shall deliver the report to the joint committee on finance and
18 the standing committees with jurisdiction over natural resources and the
19 environment no later than August 31, 2025.

20 (4) PFAS STUDIES AND REPORTING.

21 (a) In this subsection, "PFAS" has the meaning given in s. 292.315 (1).

22 (b) The department of natural resources and the Board of Regents of the
23 University of Wisconsin System shall enter into a memorandum of understanding

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1 to jointly do all of the following, with the assistance of University of Wisconsin
2 institutions, the department of natural resources and other relevant state agencies,
3 county land and water conservation departments, and local 3rd parties, if available:

4 1. Study and analyze the cost, feasibility, and effectiveness of different
5 methods of treating PFAS before they are released into a water system or water
6 body.

7 2. Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of different options for disposing of biosolids
8 or sludge that contains or may contain PFAS.

9 3. Study and analyze the cost, feasibility, and effectiveness of different
10 destruction and disposal methods for PFAS.

11 4. For sites contaminated by PFAS, in consultation with persons who are able
12 and qualified to conduct environmental remediation in this state, study and
13 analyze the cost, feasibility, and effectiveness of different methods for remediating
14 PFAS that leave the contaminated medium in place and methods that remove the
15 contaminated medium.

16 5. Study and analyze the migration of PFAS into the bay of Green Bay,
17 including where the PFAS are entering the bay and what effects PFAS may have in
18 the bay.

19 6. Study and analyze the migration of PFAS into the Wisconsin River and its
20 tributaries and the Mississippi River and its tributaries, including where the PFAS
21 are entering surface waters and unconfined groundwater and what effects PFAS
22 may have in those rivers.

23 7. Create a comprehensive, interactive map showing all available PFAS

ASSEMBLY BILL 131**SECTION 15**

1 testing data and whether each data point on the map exceeds any applicable
2 promulgated state or federal standard for PFAS. Such data may not contain any
3 personally identifiable information unless the entity to which the data applies is a
4 municipal entity that is required to test and disclose its results under ch. 281 or
5 283.

6 8. Conduct any additional studies related to PFAS, as approved by the joint
7 committee on finance.

8 (c) The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System shall require
9 the University of Wisconsin-Madison division of extension to provide the map and
10 reports on the studies required under this subsection to the joint committee on
11 finance and the standing committees with jurisdiction over natural resources and
12 the environment no later than 2 years after the effective date of this paragraph.

13 (5) REPORTS TO LEGISLATURE ON PROGRESS UNDER THIS ACT. For a period of 3
14 years after the effective date of this subsection, the department of natural resources
15 shall, every 6 months, submit a report to the joint committee on finance and to the
16 standing committees with jurisdiction over natural resources and the environment.
17 The first report under this subsection shall be submitted no later than 6 months
18 after the effective date of this subsection. The report shall include a detailed
19 description of the department's expenditures under this act and a detailed
20 description of the department's progress in implementing the provisions of this act.

21 (6) PFAS TESTING. In the 2025-27 fiscal biennium, the department of natural
22 resources shall conduct additional voluntary PFAS testing activities.

23 (7) FIREFIGHTING FOAM. The department of natural resources shall survey or

SECTION 15

1 resurvey local fire departments about their use and possession of PFAS-containing
2 firefighting foam, send communications and information regarding PFAS-
3 containing firefighting foam, and contract with a 3rd party to voluntarily collect
4 PFAS-containing firefighting foam.

5 **SECTION 16. Effective dates.** This act takes effect on the day after
6 publication, except as follows:

7 (1) ADMINISTRATIVE RULES. The treatment of administrative rules takes effect
8 as provided in s. 227.265.

9 (END)