

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 5516

Department of Environmental Quality

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| To: | Ways and Means Full Committee |
| From: | Natural Resources Subcommittee |
| Carrier: | Senator Taylor |

SB 5516 is the budget bill for the Department of Environmental Quality.

The recommended budget for the agency is \$594.8 million total funds, which is a 26% increase from the legislatively approved budget for the 2019-21 biennium. The budget includes \$67 million General Fund, which is 19% higher than the 19-21 levels. General Fund investments include additional resources in Air Quality for the greenhouse gas reduction program and clean diesel program and in Water Quality for harmful algal bloom, the onsite septic loan program, and specific water investments around clean watershed plans.

The budget also continues funding for the Electronic Data Management System and includes a budget note having the Department report back in 2022 with an update as the system moves toward Phase 3.

The budget assumes fee increases for the asbestos health protection program and for hazardous waste fees to support those programs as well as the EDMS surcharge fee contained in SB 58.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends SB 5516 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.