

SB 57 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 02/25/21

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Dembrow, Findley, Robinson, Taylor

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Restructures fees for disposal of hazardous wastes. Establishes \$20 per ton fee for: polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) under state or federal law, hazardous waste that becomes subject to regulation as a result of removal or remedial action taken in response to environmental contamination, and hazardous waste that results from corrective action or closure of a regulated or nonregulated waste management unit. Increases per ton fee to \$5 for: hazardous waste that has been treated so that it is no longer considered hazardous waste and complies with any applicable land disposal requirements; liquid waste when it has been treated and does not exhibit any characteristics of hazardous waste and can be managed at a permitted unit at the facility; solid waste that results from cleanup activities and that must be disposed of in a hazardous waste facility as a result of certain restrictions; and solid waste that is not hazardous waste or PCBs under a state or federal law. Eliminates fees for waste from the primary production of steel in electric furnaces and hazardous waste when received and treated at the facility so that it is no longer a solid waste. Authorizes the Environmental Quality Commission to adjust established fees proportionally to meet, but not exceed, the revenue needs of the Department of Environmental Quality consistent with the budget authorized by the Legislative Assembly. Makes fee changes operative January 1, 2022. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Collapsing tiered fee structure into one fee
- Program activities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Specifies fee amounts left blank in the underlying measure. Authorizes the Environmental Quality Commission to proportionally adjust the established fees to meet, but not exceed, the revenue needs of the Department of Environmental Quality, consistent with the budget authorized by the Legislative Assembly.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) manages waste designated as hazardous under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and oversees cleanup of brownfields, leaking underground fuel storage tanks, and other contaminated sites. DEQ's Hazardous Waste and Environmental Cleanup programs are partially funded through "tipping" fees, which are assessed when waste is disposed of at a hazardous waste landfill.

Senate Bill 57 A modifies fees for the disposal of hazardous wastes and becomes operative January 1, 2022.