

SB 58 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Pham**Joint Committee On Ways and Means****Action Date:** 06/18/21**Action:** Do Pass the B-Eng bill.**House Vote****Yeas:** 10 - Bynum, Drazan, Gomberg, Leif, McLain, Nosse, Rayfield, Sanchez, Sollman, Stark**Exc:** 1 - Smith G**Senate Vote****Yeas:** 11 - Anderson, Frederick, Girod, Golden, Gorsek, Hansell, Johnson, Knopp, Lieber, Steiner
Hayward, Taylor**Nays:** 1 - Thomsen**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** John Terpening, Budget Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 6/16, 6/18**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to accept payments by credit card, and to charge a fee for payments made by credit card to offset the credit card use fees charged by financial institutions at the time of transaction. This will pass those costs, often referred to as “convenience fees”, onto the payee who is choosing to use the credit card option of payment rather than other payment options and will prevent DEQ from having to cover those costs that are charged by financial institutions.

Under this measure, DEQ may also impose an annual surcharge of no more than four percent on each fee or invoice generated using the Department’s Environmental Data Management System (EDMS), to defray the costs of licensing and hosting the system. Funds collected from this surcharge are to be deposited in the newly created Environmental Data Management System Fund, which is to be used for EDMS maintenance and operations costs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact of the measure
- Proposed amendment
- Department's budget bill (SB 5516) assumes passage of this measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has begun modernization efforts to integrate application, payment, and reporting systems for 25 programs it administers, into one environmental data management system, known as Your DEQ Online. Once fully implemented, regulated entities will be able to submit applications and renewals, make electronic payments, track status, communicate with DEQ through a secure login, and in some cases, submit reports to both DEQ and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In addition, the public will have access to certain environmental data without having to submit a request for public records. DEQ has estimated that the total project will require an investment of \$18 to \$21 million over 10 years to cover the cost of system development and implementation. Senate Bill 58 A authorizes DEQ to add a reasonable fee to recover credit card transaction costs and a surcharge on invoices generated by the environmental data management system.