

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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Representative Tawna Sanchez, House Co-Chair

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Representative Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer
Tom MacDonald, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Budget)
Paul Siebert, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Audit/IT)

To: Natural Resources Subcommittee

From: Haylee Morse-Miller, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: May 31, 2023

Subject: SB 931 – Relating to sewage disposal system permits
Work Session Recommendations

SB 931 permits the Environmental Quality Commission to adopt rules to determine whether a community or area-wide sewerage system is available. Rules must consider the legal availability and physical availability of a sewerage system; the scope and magnitude of the proposed repairs to an existing subsurface sewage disposal system or alternative sewage disposal system; the cost of repairs to an existing system compared to the cost of connecting to a sewerage system; statewide planning goals; and environmental and public health concerns associated with the proximity of seepage pits, cesspools or drain fields to wells or water. This is operative January 1, 2024.

The - A4 amendment states that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), until January 2, 2025, may not determine that a community or area-wide sewerage system is available unless the sewerage system is within 200 feet of the property to be served.

The - A5 amendment includes an appropriation of \$237,072 for DEQ. Funding will be used to hire one limited duration, full-time Operations and Policy Analyst 3, equivalent to 0.88 FTE in the 2023-25 biennium. This position will assist with rulemaking, and provide training and technical assistance to county staff and other stakeholders. This position will also perform similar work that is directed under SB 835 (2023).

Recommended Changes

LFO recommends adoption of the –A4 amendment.

MOTION: I move adoption of the –A4 amendment to SB 931. (VOTE)

LFO recommends adoption of the –A5 amendment.

MOTION: I move adoption of the –A5 amendment to SB 931. (VOTE)

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that SB 931, as amended by the –A4 and –A5 amendment, be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move SB 931, as amended, to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. (VOTE)

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____