

HB 3208 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Hartman

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Action Date: 03/16/23
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 5-3-1-0
Yeas: 5 - Gamba, Hartman, Helm, Marsh, McLain
Nays: 3 - Boice, Levy B, Owens
Exc: 1 - Scharf
Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 3/7, 3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Environmental Quality Commission (Commission) to annually adjust, by up to three percent, fees associated with various programs administered by the Department of Environmental Quality, including sewage disposal and associated licensing, septage treatment, subsurface injection of fluids, sewage treatment works certification, and fees for state certification under Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Repeals statutorily established fee schedule for subsurface injection of fluids.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effect of inflation on state agency budgets and those requiring their services
- Necessity of regular fee increases
- Concerns over government expansion

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Adds fees for sewage treatment works certification to fees adjusted by Commission rulemaking.

BACKGROUND:

Certain water quality programs provided by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are fully or partially funded by revenue generated from permit or certification fees. Some fees, like those for wastewater permits, are adjusted by rule. Others, such as those related to onsite septic permitting and inspections, dredge and fill certifications, underground injection control permits, and wastewater operator certifications, are established by statute and adjustments are generally not made on a routine basis.

House Bill 3208 A authorizes the Environmental Quality Commission to annually adjust fees for certain DEQ programs up to a maximum amount of three percent per calendar year.