

HB 3208 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Taylor

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/19/23

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 3-1-0-1

Yeas: 3 - Golden, Prozanski, Taylor

Nays: 1 - Girod

Abs: 1 - Smith DB

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/12, 4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Environmental Quality 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 management, 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:

- Comparison of statutory versus rule-based fee structure for the department
- Consequences of infrequent fee increases for the department and regulated entities
- Confirmation that adjustment of department fees by more than three percent would require legislative approval

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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.