



Fact Sheet

HB 3208—EQC Authority to Adjust Water Quality Fees

This concept would provide the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) with the authority to annually adjust water quality (WQ) fees for certain programs in a manner consistent with its other water quality permitting programs.

Background

Many of DEQ WQ program activities are fully or partially dependent upon revenue generated from permit or certification fees. To maintain these program service levels, fees must keep pace with the increasing cost to administer the program due to inflation. Some of these fees are in statute and when adjustments are not made on a routine basis programs may lack sufficient revenue to support their work. Adjusting fees infrequently results in more substantial increases and as a result, may be more burdensome for many fee-paying entities than smaller and more regular increases.

The EQC may already adjust the fees for DEQ wastewater permits (NPDES and WPCF) by rule but does not have the same authority for certain other water quality programs, such as those supporting onsite septic permitting and inspections; CWA Section 401 dredge and fill certifications; underground injection control permits, and wastewater operator certifications.

Proposed Solution

This concept would provide the EQC with the authority to annually adjust WQ fees for certain DEQ programs, such as those supporting onsite septic permitting and inspections; CWA Section 401 dredge and fill certifications; underground injection control permits, and wastewater operator certification. The adjustment could be up to a maximum amount of 3% per calendar year, based on assessment of the revenue required to maintain current program service levels. This concept would streamline the relatively routine administrative process of adjusting the specified fee categories in order to sustain current program service levels. Moreover, the concept would enable small fee increases that are easier for the regulated community to implement rather than larger fee increases that become necessary when adopted infrequently.

Anticipated Fiscal Impact/POP Information

This legislative concept will not have a fiscal impact.

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