

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 5520

Department of Environmental Quality

To:	Ways and Means Full Committee
From:	Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier:	Senator Frederick

SB 5520 is the budget bill for the Department of Environmental Quality.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends a budget for the Department of over \$966 million total funds, which supports 894 positions. This includes approximately \$85 million General Fund, \$7 million Lottery Funds, \$347 million Other Funds, \$363 million in Other Funds Nonlimited, and \$165 million of Federal Funds. Overall, this is a 24% increase from the 2023-25 legislatively approved budget, and a 32% increase over the current service level, largely driven by Federal Funds for the Climate Pollution Reduction grant.

Recommended packages total \$231 million, including approximately \$2 million General Fund, \$18 million Other Funds, \$90 million Other Funds Nonlimited, and \$122 million in Federal Funds expenditure limitation. The cumulative investment focuses on maintaining core services, safety, grant delivery, and support for water infrastructure and climate programs. Additionally, two packages utilize existing resources to rebalance and reclassify positions without additional cost.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends SB 5520 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.