

ARTICLE 4

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES STATUTORY CHANGES

Sec. 135. COST ANALYSIS OF WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.

- (a) The commissioner of management and budget, after consultation with the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency, shall issue a request for proposal not to exceed \$500,000 to contract with a nonstate entity for an engineering cost analysis of current and recently adopted, proposed, or anticipated changes to water quality standards and rules, including:
- (1) recently adopted or proposed changes to total suspended solid, nutrient, chloride, nitrate, and sulfate standards;
 - (2) proposed nondegradation rulemaking provisions; and
 - (3) proposed changes to water quality standards to incorporate a tiered aquatic life use framework.
- (b) The contractor may employ engineering subcontractors serving local governments to complete the analysis. The analysis must include a cost analysis for a representative sample of at least 15 communities and provide an estimate of the cost impact to average residential and commercial connections in those communities. The sample must include a diverse set of communities based on geography, watersheds, community size, wastewater facility types and operators, storm water system types, and other factors to ensure the analysis is representative of the state as a whole. The analysis must include:
- (1) an estimate of the overall capital and operating costs to maintain and upgrade wastewater and storm water systems for existing water quality standards;
 - (2) an estimate of the overall capital and operating costs likely to be incurred to upgrade wastewater and storm water systems for recently adopted, proposed, or anticipated changes to water quality standards; and
 - (3) an estimate of the incremental effect to overall water quality in the receiving waters as a direct result of the recently adopted, proposed, or anticipated changes to water quality standards.
- (c) The commissioner shall submit the analysis to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees and divisions of the house of representatives and senate with jurisdiction over water quality standards no later than January 1, 2017.
- (d) Any appropriation for the contract under paragraph (a) does not cancel and is available until expended. Any money in excess of the \$500,000 needed must be paid from the agency's base budget.

EFFECTIVE DATE.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.