

Act No. 560
Public Acts of 2012
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
96TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012**

Introduced by Senators Proos and Kowall

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 1156

AN ACT to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "An act to protect the environment and natural resources of the state; to codify, revise, consolidate, and classify laws relating to the environment and natural resources of the state; to regulate the discharge of certain substances into the environment; to regulate the use of certain lands, waters, and other natural resources of the state; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state and local agencies and officials; to provide for certain charges, fees, assessments, and donations; to provide certain appropriations; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 5301 and 5303 (MCL 324.5301 and 324.5303), section 5301 as amended by 2005 PA 255 and section 5303 as amended by 2002 PA 398; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 5301. As used in this part:

(a) "Assistance" means 1 or more of the following activities to the extent authorized by the federal water pollution control act:

(i) Provision of loans to municipalities for construction of sewage treatment works projects, stormwater treatment projects, or nonpoint source projects.

(ii) Project refinancing assistance.

(iii) The guarantee or purchase of insurance for local obligations, if the guarantee or purchase action would improve credit market access or reduce interest rates.

(iv) Use of the proceeds of the fund as a source of revenue or security for the payment of principal and interest on revenue or general obligation bonds issued by this state, if the proceeds of the sale of the bonds will be deposited into the fund.

(v) Provision of loan guarantees for similar revolving funds established by municipalities.

(vi) The use of deposited funds to earn interest on fund accounts.

(vii) Provision for reasonable costs of administering and conducting activities under title VI of the federal water pollution control act, 33 USC 1381 to 1387.

(b) "Authority" means the Michigan municipal bond authority created in the shared credit rating act, 1985 PA 227, MCL 141.1051 to 141.1076.

(c) "Capitalization grant" means the federal grant made to this state by the United States environmental protection agency for the purpose of establishing a state water pollution control revolving fund, as provided in title VI of the federal water pollution control act, 33 USC 1381 to 1387.

(d) “Construction activities” means any actions undertaken in the planning, designing, or building of sewage treatment works projects, stormwater treatment projects, or nonpoint source projects. Construction activities include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(i) Project planning services.

(ii) Engineering services.

(iii) Legal services.

(iv) Financial services.

(v) Design of plans and specifications.

(vi) Acquisition of land or structural components, or both.

(vii) Building, erection, alteration, remodeling, or extension of a sewage treatment works.

(viii) Building, erection, alteration, remodeling, or extension of projects designed to control nonpoint source pollution, consistent with section 319 of title III of the federal water pollution control act, 33 USC 1329.

(ix) Building, erection, alteration, or remodeling of a stormwater treatment project.

(x) Municipal supervision of the project activities described in subparagraphs (i) to (ix).

(e) “Disadvantaged community” means a municipality in which all of the following conditions are met:

(i) Users within the area served by a proposed sewage treatment works project or stormwater treatment project are directly assessed for the costs of construction.

(ii) The median household income of the area served by a proposed sewage treatment works project or stormwater treatment project does not exceed 120% of the statewide median annual household income for Michigan.

(iii) The municipality demonstrates at least 1 of the following:

(A) More than 50% of the area served by a proposed sewage treatment works project or stormwater treatment project is identified as a poverty area by the United States bureau of census.

(B) The median annual household income of the area served by a proposed sewage treatment works project or stormwater treatment project is less than the most recently published federal poverty guidelines for a family of 4 in the 48 contiguous United States. In determining the median annual household income of the area served by the proposed sewage treatment works project or stormwater treatment project under this sub-subparagraph, the municipality shall utilize the most recently published statistics from the United States bureau of the census, updated to reflect current dollars, for the community which most closely approximates the area being served by the project.

(C) The median annual household income of the area served by a proposed sewage treatment works project or stormwater treatment project is less than the most recently published statewide median annual household income for this state, and annual user costs for sewage treatment or stormwater treatment exceed 1% of the median annual household income of the area served by the proposed sewage treatment works project or stormwater treatment project.

(D) The median annual household income of the area served by a proposed sewage treatment works project or stormwater treatment project is not greater than 120% of the statewide median annual household income for this state, and annual user costs for sewage treatment or stormwater treatment exceed 3% of the median annual household income of the area served by the proposed project.

(f) “Federal water pollution control act” means 33 USC 1251 to 1387.

(g) “Fund” means the state water pollution control revolving fund established under the shared credit rating act, 1985 PA 227, MCL 141.1051 to 141.1076, established pursuant to title VI of the federal water pollution control act.

(h) “Fundable range” means those projects, taken in descending order on the priority lists, for which sufficient funds are estimated by the department to exist to provide assistance at the beginning of each annual funding cycle.

(i) “Municipality” means a city, village, county, township, authority, or other public body, including an intermunicipal agency of 2 or more municipalities, authorized or created under state law; or an Indian tribe that has jurisdiction over construction and operation of sewage treatment works or other projects qualifying under section 319 of title III of the federal water pollution control act, 33 USC 1329.

(j) “Nonpoint source project” means construction activities designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution consistent with the state nonpoint source management plan pursuant to section 319 of title III of the federal water pollution control act, 33 USC 1329.

(k) “Priority list” means the annual ranked listing of projects developed by the department in section 5303 or used by the department pursuant to section 5315.

(l) “Project” means a sewage treatment works project, a stormwater treatment project, or a nonpoint source project, or a combination of these.

(m) “Project refinancing assistance” means buying or refinancing the debt obligations of municipalities within the state if construction activities commenced after March 7, 1985 and the debt obligation was incurred after March 7, 1985.

(n) "Sewage treatment works project" means construction activities on any device or system for the treatment, storage, collection, conveyance, recycling, or reclamation of the sewage of a municipality, including combined sewer overflow correction and major rehabilitation of sewers.

(o) "Stormwater treatment project" means construction activities of a municipality on any device or system for the treatment, storage, recycling, or reclamation of storm water that is conveyed by a storm sewer that is separate from a sanitary sewer.

(p) "Tier I project" means a project for which assistance is sought or provided from funds made directly available from the federal capitalization grant or from the Great Lakes water quality bond fund pursuant to section 19708(1)(a).

(q) "Tier II project" means a project for which assistance is sought or provided from funds other than those made directly available from the federal capitalization grant or from the Great Lakes water quality bond fund pursuant to section 19708(1)(a).

Sec. 5303. (1) Municipalities shall consider and utilize, where possible, cooperative regional or intermunicipal projects in satisfying sewerage needs in the development of project plans.

(2) A municipality may submit a project plan for use by the department in developing a priority list.

(3) The project plan for a tier I project shall include documentation that demonstrates that the project is needed to assure maintenance of, or to progress toward, compliance with the federal water pollution control act or part 31, and to meet the minimum requirements of the national environmental policy act of 1969, Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321, 4331 to 4335, and 4341 to 4347. The documentation shall demonstrate all of the following:

(a) The need for the project.

(b) That feasible alternatives to the project were evaluated taking into consideration volume reduction opportunities and the demographic, topographic, hydrologic, and institutional characteristics of the area.

(c) That the project is cost effective and implementable from a legal, institutional, financial, and management standpoint.

(d) Other information as required by the department.

(4) The project plan for a tier II project shall include documentation that demonstrates that the project is or was needed to assure maintenance of or progress towards compliance with the federal water pollution control act or part 31, and is consistent with all applicable state environmental laws. The documentation shall include all of the following information:

(a) Information to demonstrate the need for the project.

(b) A showing that the cost of the project is or was justified, taking into account available alternatives. Those costs determined by the department to be in excess of those costs justified are not eligible for assistance under this part.

(5) After notice and an opportunity for public comment, the department shall annually develop separate priority lists for sewage treatment works projects and stormwater treatment projects, for nonpoint source projects, and for projects funded under the strategic water quality initiatives fund created in section 5204. Projects not funded during the time that a priority list developed under this section is in effect shall be automatically prioritized on the next annual list using the same criteria, unless the municipality submits an amendment to its plan that introduces new information to be used as the basis for prioritization. These priority lists shall be based upon project plans submitted by municipalities, and the following criteria:

(a) That a project complies with all applicable standards in part 31 and the federal water pollution control act.

(b) An application for a segment of a project that received funds under the title II construction grant program or title VI state revolving loan funds of the federal water pollution control act or the strategic water quality initiatives fund created in section 5204 shall be first priority on its respective priority list for funding for a period of not more than 3 years after funds were first committed under those programs.

(c) If the project is a sewage treatment works project or a stormwater treatment project, all of the following criteria:

(i) The severity of the water pollution problem to be addressed, maximizing progress towards restoring beneficial uses and meeting water quality standards.

(ii) A determination of whether a project is or was necessary to comply with an order, permit, or other document with an enforceable schedule for addressing a municipality's sewage-related water pollution problems that was issued by the department or entered as part of an action brought by the state against the municipality or any component of the municipality. A municipality may voluntarily agree to an order, permit, or other document with an enforceable schedule as described in this subparagraph.

(iii) The population to be served by the project. However, the criterion provided in this subparagraph shall not be applied to projects funded by the strategic water quality initiatives fund created in section 5204.

(iv) The dilution ratio existing between the discharge volume and the receiving stream.

(v) If the project is within a disadvantaged community, a maximum of 50 points shall be awarded to the project in the manner that points are awarded in rules promulgated under this part.

(d) If the project is a sewage treatment works project, 100 priority points shall be awarded pursuant to R 323.958 of the Michigan administrative code for each of the following that apply to the project:

(i) The project addresses on-site septic systems that are adversely affecting the water quality of a water body or represent a threat to public health, provided that soil and hydrologic conditions are not suitable for the replacement of those on-site septic systems.

(ii) The project includes the construction of facilities for the acceptance or treatment of septage collected from on-site septic systems.

(e) Rankings for nonpoint source projects shall be consistent with the state nonpoint source management plan developed pursuant to section 319 of title III of the federal water pollution control act, chapter 758, 101 Stat. 52, 33 USC 1329.

(f) Any other criteria established by the department by rule.

(6) The priority list shall be submitted annually to the chair of the senate and house of representatives standing committees that primarily consider legislation pertaining to the protection of natural resources and the environment.

(7) For purposes of providing assistance, the priority list shall take effect on the first day of each fiscal year.

(8) This section does not limit other actions undertaken to enforce part 31, the federal water pollution control act, or any other act.

(9) As used in this section, "on-site septic system" means that term as defined in section 5201.

Enacting section 1. Section 5315 of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.5315, is repealed.

Enacting section 2. This amendatory act does not take effect unless all of the following bills of the 96th Legislature are enacted into law:

(a) Senate Bill No. 1155.

(b) Senate Bill No. 1157.

(c) Senate Bill No. 1158.

(d) House Bill No. 5673.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Carol Morey Viventi

Secretary of the Senate

Jay E. Randall

Clerk of the House of Representatives

Approved

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Governor