

Senate Bill 279 (as introduced 3-17-11)  
Sponsor: Senator Phil Pavlov  
Committee: Economic Development

Date Completed: 4-26-11

### **CONTENT**

**The bill would amend Part 15 (Enforcement) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to do the following:**

- **Require any State department that performed routine inspections under NREPA to use a "stratified random sampling process".**
- **Exclude certain inspections from the random sampling requirement.**
- **Require a State department to report annually to the Legislature regarding the inspections.**

Specifically, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and any other State department that performed routine inspections under NREPA would have to use a stratified random sampling process to select people to inspect. The requirement would not apply to any of the following:

- An inspection performed in response to a complaint from a third party.
- An inspection performed because the department had evidence that a violation had occurred.
- A follow-up inspection to determine whether violations identified in a previous inspection had been corrected.

The department would have to submit an annual report to the Legislature on all of the following:

- The methods used to comply with the bill.
- The number of routine inspections and the number of inspections for which stratified random sampling would not be required (as described above) that the department performed during the prior year.
- The location of the inspections.

"Stratified random sampling process" would mean a process that meets all of the following requirements:

- The population is divided into distinct nonoverlapping subgroups based on important characteristics.
- A sample is then selected from each subgroup through a process in which each person in that subgroup has an equal chance of being selected.
- The size of the sample from each subgroup is proportional to the size of the subgroup.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.