

Legislative Analysis



SUNSET EXTENSION FOR WASTEWATER AND STORM WATER OPERATOR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION FEES

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

Senate Bill 686 as passed by the Senate
Sponsor: Sen. Sean McCann
House Committee: Appropriations
Senate Committee: Appropriations
Complete to 10-25-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 686 would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to extend the sunset (expiration date) for wastewater and storm water operator training and certification fees collected by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) under the act. Identical sunset extensions for these fees were included in House Bill 5003, which amended the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) and was enacted as 2021 PA 91.

The bill would change the sunset of the **wastewater and storm water operator training and certification fees (section 1009)** to October 1, 2025. Individuals seeking to complete wastewater and storm water operator certification programs must pay a fee of \$30 to \$95 depending on the certification sought. These provisions were previously set to expire on October 1, 2021.

MCL 325.1009

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 686 would likely increase revenues for EGLE by extending the sunset on wastewater and storm water operator training and certification fees collected by the department; EGLE would no longer be able to collect this revenue beyond the sunset date without these extensions. Annual revenue generated by these fees is \$503,900 according to the department.

These fees primarily support the Environmental Health appropriation and the Surface Water appropriation. Environmental Health provides emergency response to drinking water safety threats; this appropriation is \$7.4 million Gross in FY 2021-22. Surface Water regulates Michigan's surface water, including pollutant monitoring and water quality testing; this appropriation is \$8.9 million in FY 2021-22.

The bill would be unlikely to affect costs for EGLE; the department is already collecting these fees and would continue to do so under the bill. However, the bill may increase costs for local governments that own or operate fee-subject facilities by extending the period under which fee payments are submitted to EGLE. The bill is unlikely to affect local government revenues.

Fiscal Analyst: Austin Scott

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