



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 392

February Session, 2014

Senate Bill No. 446

Senate, April 7, 2014

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. MEYER of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT GRANT AND PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) There is established an
2 aquatic invasive species management grant and prevention and
3 education program that shall be administered by the Department of
4 Energy and Environmental Protection. Pursuant to such program, the
5 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may make a
6 grant to any municipality for: (1) Up to seventy-five per cent of the cost
7 of conducting an aquatic invasive species diagnostic feasibility study
8 associated with the abatement of a population of an aquatic invasive
9 species in an inland water body of this state; or (2) up to fifty per cent
10 of the cost of conducting a project to restore an inland water body of
11 the state through the control and management of a population of
12 aquatic invasive species that exists in said inland water body as of the
13 effective date of this section.

14 (b) In addition to making grants, as described in subsection (a) of
 15 this section, pursuant to such aquatic invasive species management
 16 grant and prevention and education program, the Commissioner of
 17 Energy and Environmental Protection may: (1) Employ additional
 18 seasonal staff in the department's boating division for the purpose of
 19 enforcing the provisions of section 15-180 of the general statutes at the
 20 inland water bodies of this state, (2) educate persons who engage in
 21 boating in this state on measures to prevent the spread of aquatic
 22 invasive species in the inland water bodies of this state, and (3)
 23 conduct a rapid response to a population of aquatic invasive species in
 24 an inland water body of this state that is identified after the effective
 25 date of this section.

26 (c) Not less than thirty per cent of any funds available to the
 27 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for such
 28 aquatic invasive species management grant and prevention and
 29 education program shall be used for the purpose of making grants in
 30 accordance with the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of
 31 subsection (a) of this section. The remainder of any such funds shall be
 32 used for: (1) The prevention and education and rapid response efforts
 33 described in subsection (b) of this section, and (2) the administration of
 34 such program, provided not more than ten per cent of such funds shall
 35 be used for such administrative purposes.

36 (d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
 37 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of
 38 the general statutes, to implement the aquatic invasive species
 39 management grant and prevention and education program described
 40 in this section. Such regulations may include, but shall not be limited
 41 to, eligibility criteria and priorities for the award of any grant pursuant
 42 to subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Cost	399,399	205,381
Comptroller- Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Potential Cost	44,999	46,349

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Revenue Gain	200,000	None

Explanation

The bill establishes an aquatic invasive species (AIS) management grant and prevention and education program within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

It allows the agency to (1) provide grants to municipalities for AIS management efforts; (2) hire seasonal staff to enforce state law requiring vessels and trailers to be inspected for the presence of vegetation and AIS; (3) educate boaters on prevention methods for the spread of AIS in lakes; and (4) conduct a rapid response to AIS population identified in state lakes. It also allows up to 10% of funds provided for the program to be used by DEEP for administrative purposes. To the extent DEEP implements the AIS management

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 36.66% of payroll in FY 15 and FY 16.

program, there could be costs of \$399,399 in FY 15 and \$205,381 in FY 16 for these purposes.

It is anticipated that DEEP may hire ten seasonal staff persons, costing approximately \$156,339 in FY 15 and \$161,029 in FY 16, including fringe benefits to provide prevention, education and rapid response efforts associated with the AIS program. sHB 5030, the FY 15 revised budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, appropriated \$54,600 in FY 15 for this purpose.

The agency is also anticipated to hire an intern to administer the municipal grant program and coordinate rapid response efforts at a cost of \$43,060 in FY 15 and \$44,352 in FY 16, including fringe benefits.² There is no funding in sHB 5030, the FY 15 revised budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, for this purpose.

There may also be additional costs to DEEP, and a revenue gain to various municipalities in the same amount, to the extent DEEP makes grants to municipalities for AIS management efforts. sHB 5030, the FY 15 revised budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, appropriated \$200,000 in FY 15 for this purpose.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

² The fringe benefit expenses reflect social security payroll taxes of 7.65%.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 446*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT GRANT AND PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes an aquatic invasive species management grant and prevention and education program for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to administer. Under the program, DEEP may:

1. provide grants to municipalities for aquatic invasive species management efforts;
2. hire additional seasonal staff to enforce state law requiring vessels and trailers to be inspected for the presence of vegetation and aquatic invasive species;
3. educate boaters on ways to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in the state's lakes; and
4. conduct a rapid response to an aquatic invasive species population identified in a state lake after July 1, 2014.

The bill authorizes the DEEP commissioner to adopt implementing regulations, which may include eligibility criteria and priorities for municipal grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

MUNICIPAL GRANTS

Under the bill, DEEP may make grants to a municipality for up to:

1. 75% of the cost of conducting an aquatic invasive species

diagnostic feasibility study related to reducing an aquatic invasive species population in a state lake or

2. 50% of the cost of conducting a restoration project in a state lake by controlling and managing an aquatic invasive species population that exists in the lake as of July 1, 2014.

USE OF FUNDS

The bill requires DEEP to use at least 30% of the funds available under the program for municipal grants and allows up to 10% of the available program funds to be used for program administration. The remaining funds must be used for the enforcement, education, and rapid response efforts. The bill does not identify a funding source.

BACKGROUND

Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species are non-native aquatic plants or animals that tend to grow at such a rate that they displace native species and disrupt the ecosystem. They include, for example, Eurasian milfoil, fanwort, zebra mussel, quagga mussel, Chinese mitten crab, New Zealand mud snail, Asian clam, and rusty crayfish.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 27 Nay 0 (03/21/2014)