

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 19-194—HB 7194

Public Health Committee

Energy and Technology Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PUBLIC DRINKING WATER AND CLARIFICATION CONCERNING THE EFFECT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE WATER PLAN AND DEFINING MUNICIPALITY WITH RESPECT TO STORMWATER AUTHORITIES

SUMMARY: This act allows public water system public service companies to receive grants from the Department of Public Health's (DPH) Public Water System Improvement Program. Prior law limited program eligibility to municipal water companies and nonprofit non-community water systems (i.e., facilities served by their own water supply).

Under the act, a water system that is a public service company (i.e., regulated by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)) may receive a program grant only if (1) it serves at least 25 people or at least 15 year-round service connections, (2) the grant is used for an eligible drinking water project approved for financial assistance under DPH's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program (see BACKGROUND), and (3) DPH consulted with PURA about the grant.

Existing law limits program grants to (1) 50% of eligible project costs for systems serving up to 10,000 people and (2) 30% of eligible project costs for larger systems.

Additionally, the act requires DPH to amend its regulations to include standards and procedures for it to approve third parties to administer certification exams for operators of water treatment plants, water distribution systems, and small water systems. The regulations must also include standards and procedures for DPH to approve study courses and course providers related to these operators, as well as those who test backflow prevention devices and perform cross-connection surveys.

The act also (1) provides that any state statutes that conflict with the state water plan are controlling and (2) makes changes in HB 7408 (2019), which relates to municipal stormwater authorities but did not pass (thus, this section has no legal effect).

Lastly, the act makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019, except (1) upon passage for the provision on conflicts between state law and the state water plan and (2) July 1, 2019, for the provisions on municipal stormwater authorities.

BACKGROUND

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

Under the DWSRF program, DPH awards loans for up to 100% of eligible project costs to eligible drinking water projects, based on a priority funding list it establishes and maintains. Eligible project costs include, among other things, labor, materials, machinery, land, or easements. DPH's Public Water System Improvement Program grants may be used to forgive the principal on DWSRF loans.