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FISCAL NOTE (Form 1)
(Office of Fiscal Analysis)
Analyst: EG4/22/92
tk
Version: 1

BILL NUMBER: SHB 5624
FILE NUMBER:
AMENDMENTS:

TITLE: "AN ACT CONCERNING REVENUE FOR, AND EXPENSES OF,
CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION"

FAVORABLY REPORTED BY Environment, Finance, Revenue and
Bonding

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/92

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SHB 5624

STATE IMPACT Potential Cost (General Fund),
Cost and Potential Revenue
(Environmental Quality Fund), and
Revenue (Emergency Response Fund),
see explanation below

MUNICIPAL IMPACT None

STATE AGENCY(S) Department of Environmental
Protection

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE IMPACT: Allowing the Department of Environmental Protection to charge a fee, by regulation, for information the State must certify to the federal government under the federal Clean Water Act, could minimally increase revenue to the Environmental Quality Fund. The exact increase would depend upon the fee and the amount of information the State must certify, when and if the regulations are adopted, and cannot be determined at this time. The bill also allows DEP to charge for costs of recording and transcribing hearings, potentially increasing revenue to the Environmental Quality Fund and saving General Funds and Environmental Quality Funds. The exact impact of this provision cannot be determined, however, it should be noted that one transcript can cost as much as \$50,000. The Environmental Quality Fund is used to fund a variety of activities in support of environmental quality programs, especially those related to permit issuance, monitoring and enforcement and is financed mainly through permit and license fees. The bill also extends the current tax on hazardous waste generators which is deposited in the Emergency Spill Response Fund, from July 1, 1992 to June 30, 1994. The annual revenue from this tax is approximately \$1.8 million. These funds, along with approximately \$2.2 million more in revenue per year deposited in the Fund, are used and have been used to fund potable water, the State share of federal super fund expenses, studies, loans and lines of credit for environmental cleanup for small

business, aquifer mapping and program costs, personnel (34 currently and an additional 36 in FY 93) associated with the emergency spill program, site remediation, pesticides, negative declaration program, site discovery and assessment program, etc. By requiring regulations before the DEP sets new fees for its facilities, additional costs could be incurred. If new regulations were needed immediately to increase fees, the DEP would need additional funds for 1/4 person at \$10,000 for the adoption of regulations. It should be noted that SHB 5100 (the Appropriations Act, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee) eliminated \$750,000 from DEP's budget to be offset by anticipated increases in various State park and facilities fee increases. The increases in revenue are deposited into the Conservation Fund for use by the agency to support the management of parks, forests, fish and wildlife.

Extending the validity of the parking pass to weekends and holidays will have no fiscal impact since this action will comply with current practice of the agency.