

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 196

PRINTER'S NO. 716

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

FEDERAL: Clean Water State Revolving Fund

STATE: Environmental Stewardship Fund
General Obligation Bonds:
 1992 Referendum & 2008 Referendum
Proceeds from Act 147 of 2012
Proceeds from Loan Repayments in State Program

DATE INTRODUCED

January 17, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator White

HISTORY OF BILL

ferred to ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, Jan. 17, 2013
ported as committed, Jan. 23, 2013
st consideration, Jan. 23, 2013
-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Feb. 13, 2013
-reported as amended, March 18, 2013

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

The bill amends the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) Act. The bill, as amended by A00325, changes the definition of "project" to further define best management practices for pollution to be those developed to comply with The Clean Streams Law or as identified in Pennsylvania's Nonpoint Source Management Program Update, as required by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Amendment A00325 deletes the definition of "urban runoff" and the related paragraph.

The bill eliminates the provision which restricts eligibility for storm water project funding solely to governmental units, thus allowing nonprofit and watershed organizations to be eligible.

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The bill, as amended, clarifies that projects eligible for funding can include those which implement innovative techniques designed to meet several different programmatic goals including, compliance with the Clean Streams Law; the Storm Water Management Act; or to achieve water quality improvement goals as specified in the state's Nonpoint Source Management Plan. As amended, the bill also clarifies that projects designed to ensure compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements are eligible for funding. The amended bill clarifies that nonpoint source program projects with a water quality impact that are consistent with Pennsylvania's Nonpoint Source Management Program Update, as required under Section 319(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, are eligible for financial assistance.

The amended bill specifies funding eligibility requirements for projects which are undertaken by entities other than municipalities.

The bill requires the PENNVEST board to provide the Governor and the General Assembly with an annual report detailing all the projects. It may be submitted via e-mail. It also requires each annual report to be published and maintained on the Authority's publicly accessible Internet website.

The Act takes effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill will allow the Commonwealth to better leverage federal funds (CWSRF) for which we are eligible to fund nonpoint source projects for the implementation of the Section 319 plan of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The bill will not provide any new state funding but will allow existing funding sources to also be directed to non-governmental entities, such as nonprofit organizations and watershed groups, for the implementation and completion of all eligible storm water projects.