

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 575

PRINTER NO. 930

AMOUNT

\$20,000,000

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 31, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Yaw

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 575 amends Title 27 providing for the Pennsylvania Clean Water Procurement Program, establishing the Watershed Innovation and Improvement Fund, and making an appropriation.

This legislation creates the Pennsylvania Clean Water Procurement Program, which through a competitive sealed procurement process will provide for the purchase of verified nutrient and sediment reductions. Within 60 days of the appropriation, the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PennVEST) shall initiate the procurement process. The criteria and weighting applied to each factor shall be printed as part of the procurement process. Contracts with nutrient and sediment reducers shall be for 10 years. The reducer must make available 20% of its allotment for participation by small farms or aggregators for 30 days. The Department of Environmental Protection (department) must verify the reductions and will continue to verify monthly before PennVEST will purchase the reductions.

The bill establishes the Watershed Innovation and Improvement Fund in the state treasury. Into the fund, \$20,000,000 is appropriated from the General Fund, of which two and one half percent may be used by the department for implementing the program.

Senate Bill 575 also allows for the expanded use of the Environmental Stewardship Fund to include connections between trails, access to lake and riverfronts, conservation of riparian buffers, heritage areas and recreations purposes.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 575 appropriates \$20,000,000 from the General Fund to the newly created Watershed Innovation and Improvement Fund. Of the \$20,000,000, two and one half percent may be used by the department for implementing the program.