

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 619

**PRINTER NO.** 857

**AMOUNT**

\$1,000,000

**FUND**

Clean Water Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

May 10, 2019

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Yaw

**DESCRIPTION**

Senate Bill 619 amends the Clean Streams Law to change definitions and the criteria for self-reporting of discharges.

This legislation changes the definition of 'pollution' to exempt an accidental discharge, spill or release that does not cause a violation of any numeric water quality criteria under code.

The bill also requires a person to report to the Department of Environmental Protection (department) if a spill, discharge or release, not authorized by permit, will cause a violation of water quality criteria, or exceeds reportable quantities established under the federal Water Pollution Control Act.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The department believes Senate Bill 619 would have a \$1,000,000 negative impact on the Clean Water Fund. The bill's provisions would result in a reduction of \$1,000,000 in fines and penalties. Projections by the department along with their budget material submitted to the Governor, show the Clean Water Fund becoming insolvent during fiscal year 2020-21.