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House Bill 914, Printer's Number 2859

**Amending the Sewage Facilities Act –
Removal of permit-exempt inspection fee cap**

PROPOSAL/SUMMARY: This bill amends Act 537 of 1966, the Sewage Facilities Act, to increase a cap on the fee that may be charged by a municipality to a person who seeks to install a permit-exempt septic system. Before installation of the system, a person must notify the municipality so that the municipality can verify that the proposed location meets the act's siting requirements. The fee that a municipality is currently allowed to charge for the verification of the siting requirements is \$25. Under this bill, the fee cap will be increased to \$100.

EXISTING LAW: Section 7(a.1)(2) of the Sewage Facilities Act allows a local agency to charge a fee, not to exceed \$25, to verify that the system is located according to the siting requirements. The \$25 fee cap was established by amendment of the Sewage Facilities Act in 1994.

This bill was drafted in consultation with PSATS and in response to PSATS Resolution 2013-37. An earlier draft proposed authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to establish a cap on the fee by regulation; however, that authorization was removed after consulting with the DEP Office of Legislative Liaison.