



HOUSE BILL 824: Wastewater Grant Amendments.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 1, 2019
Introduced by:	Rep. Yarborough	Prepared by:	Jeff Hudson
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 824 would modify the criteria that the Division of Water Infrastructure in the Department of Environmental Quality must consider when evaluating loan and grant applications to the Wastewater Reserve and Drinking Water Reserve in the State Water Infrastructure Fund.*

CURRENT LAW:

The Wastewater Reserve in the State Water Infrastructure Fund receives State funds to be used for loans and grants for wastewater collection systems, wastewater treatment works, stormwater quality projects, and nonpoint source pollution projects. The Drinking Water Reserve in the State Water Infrastructure Fund receives State funds to be used for loans and grants for public water systems.

The Division of Water Infrastructure in the Department of Environment Quality must consider the following items when evaluating loan and grant applications to the Wastewater Reserve or the Drinking Water Reserve: public necessity, effect on impaired waters, efficiency, whether there is a comprehensive land-use plan, whether there is a flood hazard ordinance, sound management, whether there is an asset management plan, whether there is a capital improvement plan, coastal habitat protection, affordability, merger and regionalization, regional coordination, whether there are water conservation measures for drought, and whether low-income residents will be served.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 824 would make the following changes to the items that must be considered when the loan and grant applications are evaluated:

- Changes the item regarding effects on impaired waters to provide that greater priority be given to projects that improve impaired waters that serve as a public water supply for a public water system that serves more than 175,000 service connections.
- Adds an item to provide consideration of wastewater system improvements made by a local government unit in order to protect or preserve the water supply of a neighboring local government unit that has a lower poverty rate, lower utility bills, higher population growth, higher median household incomes, and lower unemployment.
- Makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would become effective July 1, 2019, and apply to applications for loans or grants received on or after that date.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578