



# HOUSE BILL 916: Wastewater Advanced Treatment Units.

2021-2022 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Environment. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations	<b>Date:</b>	June 29, 2021
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Brody, Moffitt, Hanig	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kyle Evans
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H916-CSBRa-19		Committee Counsel

**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute to House Bill 916 would direct the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to adopt rules establishing standards for the discharge of highly treated wastewater, appropriate \$20M in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to create a pilot program for the Innovative Highly Treated Wastewater Pilot Program (Pilot), create the Pilot, direct the Commission for Public Health (CPH) to adopt rules to establish standards for highly treated wastewater systems, and clarify that local boards of health may not adopt rules concerning wastewater systems more stringent than existing CPH rules.*

### BILL ANALYSIS:

**Section 1** of the PCS would direct the EMC to adopt rules establishing water quality standards for discharge to surface waters and for spray irrigation of highly treated wastewater. "Highly treated wastewater," for the purposes of this section, means liquid discharged from a wastewater system that is following all applicable regulatory requirements and is designed and operated to meet certain nutrient standards specified in the PCS.

**Section 2** would direct DEQ to establish the Innovative Highly Treated Wastewater Pilot Program (Pilot). Through the Pilot, DEQ would be directed to review and qualify wastewater systems meeting the standards enacted and created in Section 1 of this PCS, identify distressed local governments, sanitary districts, or public authorities, and work with those distressed entities to select, permit, and install at least four highly treated wastewater systems.

To implement the Pilot, \$20,000,000 in nonrecurring funds would be appropriated from the General Fund to DEQ for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Any funds not spent or encumbered by June 30, 2023 must revert to the General Fund.

**Section 3** would direct the CPH to adopt rules to establish standards for highly treated wastewater systems, including the process by which highly treated wastewater systems would be approved for use in the State.

**Section 4** would provide that local boards of health may not adopt rules concerning wastewater systems more stringent than existing CPH rules.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Section 2 would become effective August 1, 2021. Section 3 would become effective January 1, 2022. The remainder of this act would become effective when law.

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Legislative Analysis  
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