

SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2024 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to Original Senate Bill No. 64 by Senator Reese

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, line 2, after "and (G)" delete the remainder of the line and insert ", to enact "R.S.
3 39:100.52(E),"

4 AMENDMENT NO. 2

5 On page 1, line 3, change "39:100.56(K)(2)(c)" to "100.56(K)(2)(c), and 100.56(O), and to
6 repeal R.S. 39:100.56(N),"

7 AMENDMENT NO. 3

8 On page 1, line 10, change "R.S. 39:100.56(K)(2)(c) is" to "R.S. 39:100.52(E),
9 100.56(K)(2)(c), and 100.56(O) are"

10 AMENDMENT NO. 4

11 On page 1, between line 16 and 17, insert the following:

12 **"E. Any monies deposited into the fund on or after July 1, 2024**
13 **shall be used only to provide grant funding for repairs, improvements,**
14 **and consolidation of community water and sewer systems pursuant to**
15 **the Water Sector Program as provided in R.S. 39:100.56(O).**
16 * * *

17 AMENDMENT NO. 5

18 On page 2, between lines 24 and 25, insert the following:

19 **"O. (1) Any monies deposited into the fund on or after July 1,**
20 **2024 shall be used only to provide grant funding for repairs,**
21 **improvements, and consolidation of community water and sewer systems**
22 **pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection.**
23 **(2) The commission shall hold a meeting no later than September**
24 **1, 2024 to submit priorities to the division to utilize in the development**
25 **of guidance for any new grants awarded pursuant to the Water Sector**
26 **Program on or after July 1, 2024.**
27 **(3) Upon receipt, the division shall promulgate guidance for the**
28 **administration of any new grants awarded after July 1, 2024. The**
29 **guidance shall include application requirements, deadlines for**
30 **application submissions and approval, criteria for ratings, and a process**
31 **for prioritizing critical infrastructure needs. The Administrative**
32 **Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., shall not apply to guidance**
33 **promulgated pursuant to this Subsection. No later than October 1, 2024,**
34 **the division shall submit the proposed guidance to the commission for**
35 **review and approval. Any changes to the guidance shall require**
36 **approval by the commission.**
37 **(4)(a) In addition to the guidance provided for in this Subsection,**
38 **the division shall submit a proposal outlining administrative costs for the**
39 **program to the commission for review and approval prior to**
40 **implementing the program. The commission shall review the proposed**
41 **administrative costs and make a recommendation to the Joint**
42 **Legislative Committee on the Budget for funding for administrative**
43 **costs subject to appropriation. The Joint Legislative Committee on the**

Budget shall review the recommendations submitted by the commission and approve administrative costs for the program.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the division may enter into consulting services, professional services, and information and technology services contracts for the purpose of the procurement of any goods or services necessary to implement and expedite the distribution of funds as emergency procurements exempt from the provisions of the Louisiana Procurement Code and corresponding rules and regulations. The cost of such contracts shall be considered administrative costs and shall require approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

(5) Each grant recipient shall be required to provide matching funds unless the commission recommends waiving the match requirement.

(6) The division shall begin accepting applications for available funds, including those appropriated by the legislature, no later than thirty days after promulgation of the guidance. The applications shall include the following, at a minimum:

(a) The amount of grant funding requested.

(b) The amount and proposed source of funding for the proposed match.

(c) Proposals for repairs, improvements, or consolidation with neighboring systems.

(d) Assurance the entity will comply with the rate determination of the rate study completed by a third party chosen by the division prior to release of funds for construction and permission to bid.

(7) Within forty-five days of the end of the application period, the division shall submit ratings of the proposed projects by the working panel established in Subsection C of this Section and recommendations for funding for the projects to the commission. The working panel's recommendations to the commission shall include recommendations for utilization of existing funding sources including the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and Community Water Enrichment and Other Improvements Fund.

(8) The commission shall review the ratings and recommendations submitted by the working panel. The commission shall submit its recommendations for grant awards to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. The recommendations shall include:

(a) Proposed matching funds, unless the commission recommends a waiver of matching funds or decreased match for any project based on the determination that the local governing authority or water system is unable to provide the match.

(b) Funding for small water and sewer systems as provided for in the guidance.

(9) The Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget shall review the recommendations submitted by the commission and have final approval of funding for projects. No monies shall be expended from the fund without approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

(10) The division shall submit a quarterly status update, including a construction progress report, for projects that received funding approval to the commission and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

(11) Each grant recipient that receives funding pursuant to this Section shall comply with the provisions of R.S. 24:513.

Section 2. R.S. 39:100.56(N) is hereby repealed."

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 2, line 25, change "Section 2." to "Section 3."