

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 48

BY SENATOR REESE AND REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

FUNDS/FUNDING. Provides for changes to the Water Sector Program. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 39:100.56(D), (E), the introductory paragraph of (H), and (I) and to repeal R.S. 39:100.56(G)(5), (O), and (P), relative to the Water Sector Program; to provide relative to application period dates; to require the division of administration to post certain documents; to require the division of administration to conduct outreach efforts; to repeal provisions relative to capital outlay; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 39:100.56(D), (E), the introductory paragraph of (H), and (I) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§100.56. Water Sector Program

* * *

~~D.(1) The commission shall hold its first meeting no later than June 30, 2021. At its first meeting, the commission shall issue directives to the division to utilize in the development of the guidance required in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.~~

(2) The division shall promulgate guidance for the administration of the program. The guidance shall include application requirements, **application period**

1 of existing funding sources including the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund,
2 Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and Community Water Enrichment and Other
3 Improvements Fund.

4 * * *

5 Section 2. R.S. 39:100.56(G)(5), (O), and (P) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

6 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
7 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
8 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
9 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
10 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Curry Lann.

DIGEST

SB 48 Original

2022 Regular Session

Reese

Present law (R.S. 39:100.56) creates the Water Sector Program to provide grants for repairs, improvements, and consolidation of community water and sewer systems. Establishes the Water Sector Commission to review and approve applications submitted pursuant to the program and make recommendations to Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) for approval of funding.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the commission to hold its first meeting no later than June 30, 2021, and issue directives to the division to utilize in the development of the guidance at its first meeting.

Proposed law removes present law.

Present law requires the division to promulgate guidance for the administration of the program, including application requirements, deadlines for application submissions and approval, criteria for ratings, and a process for prioritizing critical infrastructure needs.

Proposed law adds application period dates to the guidance requirements and otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law requires the division to conduct outreach and educational efforts for all water and sewer systems to raise awareness regarding the program.

Proposed law requires the division to post on its website a copy of the guidance as well as any additional information regarding the program, including the application process, procurement, or scoring criteria upon request of the commission.

Present law requires the division to submit the proposed guidance and a proposal outlining administrative costs for the program to the commission for review and approval no later than

July 15, 2021.

Proposed law retains present law but removes the July 15, 2021, deadline.

Present law requires the division to begin accepting applications no later than August 1, 2021.

Proposed law removes present law.

Present law requires the division to submit the working panel's ratings and recommendations for funding to the commission within 45 days of the end of the application period.

Proposed law retains present law but removes the 45-day deadline.

Present law requires that applications include a certification from water system operators that funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is being used as match or an explanation that precluded the use of those funds as match.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law requires projects included in the Capital Outlay Act receive priority for funding and exempts those entities from submitting an additional application to be considered for a grant.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law authorizes the commission to make recommendations to the commissioner of administration regarding lines of credit on capital outlay projects.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 39:100.56(D), (E), (H) (intro para), and (I); repeals R.S. 39:100.56(G)(5), (O), and (P))