

HCS SS SB 172 -- WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

SPONSOR: Green (Walsh)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on General Laws by a vote of 10 to 2.

This substitute prohibits the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District from assessing a residential district property owner any fee, charge, or tax for storm water management services if the district does not directly provide sanitary sewer services to the property and the storm water runoff from the property does not flow or is not conveyed to a sewer maintained by the district.

The substitute also provides an alternative procedure for issuing bonds for a common sewer district partially or completely located in Cass County by allowing the subdistrict to issue bonds if it receives approval from three-quarters of the customers of the political subdivision as specified in the substitute.

The substitute contains an emergency clause for the provisions regarding the alternative procedure for issuing bonds in Cass County.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will prevent the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District from charging excessive fees for impervious area runoff to individuals who do not receive any services from the district.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Jones (89) for Senator Green; and Ron Lowry.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that although the restriction to residential areas being exempt from charge is helpful, federal law requires the district to provide regulatory services to the entire area making charges necessary.

Testifying against the bill was Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District.