

HB 2529 -- SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Hicks

This bill changes the laws relating to solid waste management districts. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires that if a county applies to the Department of Natural Resources to be placed with another regional grouping of solid waste management districts, the county must be placed with a regional grouping adjacent to the county;

(2) Changes the requirement for the Executive Board of each district to submit a plan to the department to a optional requirement;

(3) Removes the requirement for the Department of Natural Resources to conduct certain performance audits. Under current law, the Department must conduct a performance audit of grants to each solid waste management district at least once every 5 years;

(4) Repeals the provision of law that \$200,000 from the Solid Waste Management Fund may be allocated to certain solid waste management districts;

(5) Modifies the amount that a district may allocate to district operations from no more than 50% to no more than 25% and no less than 75% to grants or projects serving the district;

(6) Requires revenues to be immediately transferred to the districts on a quarterly basis;

(7) Increases the amount that certain minimally funded districts receive from \$95,000 a year to \$120,000 a year;

(8) Repeals a provision stating that the department and the Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority shall conduct sample audits of grants;

(9) Changes the requirement for districts to submit a grant application to the department from submittal of an application to submitting only the supporting information to verify certain requirements were met and reduces the number of days the department has to supporting information from 30 day to 10 days;

(10) Moves the responsibility for performance reviews and audits of grant recipients from the department to the district; and

(1) Specifies that if a solid waste management district receives an unfavorable decision on a request submitted to the department, the district may send the request to the Solid Waste Advisory Board and the request may be appealed to the Administrative Hearing Commission upon at least two-thirds of the members of the board representing solid waste management districts.

This bill is similar to SB 771 (2020).