

HB 775 -- 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 the Department of Natural Resources to create and maintain a Waste Reduction and Recycling Unit to perform certain duties and requires 5% of the scrap tire fee be used to support waste reduction and recycling efforts. Currently, the Department may use up to 5% for such efforts;
- (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) Reduces the money available to the Department and the Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority to fund activities that promote the development and maintenance of markets for recovered materials from \$800,000 to \$600,000;
- (5) Requires that \$200,000 be made available to districts receiving less than \$120,000 for a fiscal year and be distributed to eligible districts proportionately to increase a districts allocation to as close to \$120,000 as possible;
- (6) Requires revenues to be immediately transferred to the Districts on a quarterly basis;
- (7) 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 review 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
- (11) 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 HB 2529 (2020).