

SENATE BUSINESS & INDUSTRY  
COMMITTEE NO. 1  
DATE 3/2/05  
BILL NO. HB 77

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

HB77, introduced by B. Olson  
By request of the Department of Environment Quality  
**2005 Montana Legislature**

**FACT SHEET**

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**INCREASE SEPTIC PUMPER APPLICATION REVIEW FEES**

**Provisions:**

- Amends §75-10-1212, MCA to increase licensing fees for septic tank pumpers to clean and dispose of septic tank, cesspool, pit privy and associated wastes. The proposed fee would be \$300. The current fee is \$125. The statute change will also provide a flat fee of \$50 to the counties per pumper licensed in each county. The flat fee would replace the 40% fee reimbursement to the county where the fees were collected.

**Implementation:**

- The Department of Environmental Quality, Waste & Underground Tank Management Bureau, Septic Tank Pumper (STP) Program will administer regulatory changes associated with this legislation. The fee increase would take effect beginning in fiscal year 2006.

**Advantages & Disadvantages:**

- The advantage to the DEQ by the passage of this bill would be to increase revenue to match expenditures of the STP Program. At the end of FY04 the STP program's revenue did not cover the program's staffing obligations. The shortfall of \$24,000 was balanced by funding from the Solid Waste Program. Secondly, the increased fee revenue will allow the STP program to fund educational programs for septic tank pumpers in the state. A resolution passed by the recently formed Septic Pumper Advisory Committee (SPAC) supports fee increases in return for department sponsored educational programs to enhance understanding and implementation of statutes and rules.
- The increase in annual license renewal fees to the pumpers could be a disadvantage stemming from the proposed changes to the statute. However, the benefits gained by the septic pumper industry from department-sponsored training is anticipated to out weight the increase in fees, which will be used to fund such activities.

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