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**** BILL NO. ****

INTRODUCED BY ****

BY REQUEST OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE****

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TO REVIEW EXPERIMENTAL WASTEWATER SYSTEMS AND PROPOSE FOR ADOPTION THOSE SYSTEMS THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS ALLOWED IN THE SANITATION IN SUBDIVISIONS ACT; AMENDING SECTION 76-4-104, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 76-4-104, MCA, is amended to read:

"76-4-104. Rules for administration and enforcement. (1) The department shall, subject to the provisions of 76-4-135, adopt reasonable rules, including adoption of sanitary standards, necessary for administration and enforcement of this part.

(2) The rules and standards must provide the basis for approving subdivisions for various types of public and private water supplies, sewage disposal facilities, storm water drainage ways, and solid waste disposal. The rules and standards must be related to:

- (a) size of lots;
- (b) contour of land;
- (c) porosity of soil;
- (d) ground water level;
- (e) distance from lakes, streams, and wells;
- (f) type and construction of private water and sewage facilities; and
- (g) other factors affecting public health and the quality of water for uses relating to agriculture, industry, recreation, and wildlife.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), the rules must provide for the review of subdivisions consistent with 76-4-114 by a local department or board of health, as described in Title 50, chapter 2, part 1, if

1 the local department or board of health employs a registered sanitarian or a registered professional engineer
2 and if the department certifies under subsection (4) that the local department or board is competent to conduct
3 the review.

4 (b) (i) Except as provided in 75-6-121 and subsection (3)(b)(ii) of this section, a local department or
5 board of health may not review public water supply systems, public sewage systems, or extensions of or
6 connections to these systems.

7 (ii) A local department or board of health may be certified by the department to review subdivisions
8 proposed to connect to existing municipal or county water and/or sewer district water and wastewater systems
9 previously approved by the department if no extension of the systems is required.

10 (4) The department shall also adopt standards and procedures for certification and maintaining
11 certification to ensure that a local department or board of health is competent to review the subdivisions as
12 described in subsection (3).

13 (5) The department shall review those subdivisions described in subsection (3) if:

14 (a) a proposed subdivision lies within more than one jurisdictional area and the respective governing
15 bodies are in disagreement concerning approval of or conditions to be imposed on the proposed subdivision; or

16 (b) the local department or board of health elects not to be certified.

17 (6) The rules must further provide for:

18 (a) providing the reviewing authority with a copy of the plat or certificate of survey subject to review
19 under this part and other documentation showing the layout or plan of development, including:

20 (i) total development area; and

21 (ii) total number of proposed dwelling units and structures requiring facilities for water supply or
22 sewage disposal;

23 (b) adequate evidence that a water supply that is sufficient in terms of quality, quantity, and
24 dependability will be available to ensure an adequate supply of water for the type of subdivision proposed;

25 (c) evidence concerning the potability of the proposed water supply for the subdivision;

26 (d) adequate evidence that a sewage disposal facility is sufficient in terms of capacity and
27 dependability;

28 (e) standards and technical procedures applicable to storm drainage plans and related designs, in

1 order to ensure proper drainage ways;

2 (f) standards and technical procedures applicable to sanitary sewer plans and designs, including soil
3 testing and site design standards for on-lot sewage disposal systems when applicable;

4 (g) standards and technical procedures applicable to water systems;

5 (h) standards and technical procedures applicable to solid waste disposal;

6 (i) adequate evidence that a proposed drainfield mixing zone and a proposed well isolation zone are
7 located wholly within the boundaries of the proposed subdivision where the proposed drainfield or well is
8 located or that an easement or, for public land, other authorization has been obtained from the landowner to
9 place the proposed drainfield mixing zone or proposed well isolation zone outside the boundaries of the
10 proposed subdivision where the proposed drainfield or proposed well is located. A proposed mixing zone or a
11 proposed well isolation zone for an individual water system well that is a minimum of 50 feet inside the
12 proposed subdivision boundary may extend outside the boundaries of the proposed subdivision onto adjoining
13 land that is dedicated for use as a right-of-way for roads, railroads, or utilities. This subsection (6)(i) does not
14 apply to the divisions provided for in 76-3-207 except those under 76-3-207(1)(b). Nothing in this section is
15 intended to prohibit the extension, construction, or reconstruction of or other improvements to a public sewage
16 system within a well isolation zone that extends onto land that is dedicated for use as a right-of-way for roads,
17 railroads, or utilities.

18 (j) criteria for granting waivers and deviations from the standards and technical procedures adopted
19 under subsections (6)(e) through (6)(i);

20 (k) evidence to establish that, if a public water supply system or a public sewage system is proposed,
21 provision has been made for the system and, if other methods of water supply or sewage disposal are
22 proposed, evidence that the systems will comply with state and local laws and regulations that are in effect at
23 the time of submission of the subdivision application under this chapter. Evidence that the systems will comply
24 with local laws and regulations must be in the form of a certification from the local health department as
25 provided by department rule.

26 (l) evidence to demonstrate that appropriate easements, covenants, agreements, and management
27 entities have been established to ensure the protection of human health and state waters and to ensure the
28 long-term operation and maintenance of water supply, storm water drainage, and sewage disposal facilities;

1 (m) eligibility requirements for municipalities and county water and/or sewer districts to qualify as a
2 certifying authority under the provisions of 76-4-127.

3 (7) The department shall:

4 (a) conduct an annual review of experimental wastewater systems that have been granted a waiver or
5 deviation as provided in subsection (6)(i);

6 (b) utilize relevant analysis of wastewater systems approved in other states and data from peer-
7 reviewed third-party studies to conduct the review provided in subsection (7)(a);

8 (c) approve those experimental wastewater systems that meet the purposes and provisions of this act
9 into the rules pursuant to this section; and

10 (d) report to the local government interim committee biennially, in accordance with 5-11-210, the
11 number and type of experimental wastewater systems reviewed, the number and type of systems approved,
12 and provide written findings to explain why a system was reviewed but not approved.

13 ~~(7)(8)~~ Review and certification or denial of certification that a division of land is not subject to sanitary
14 restrictions under this part may occur only under those rules in effect when a complete application is submitted
15 to the reviewing authority, except that in cases in which current rules would preclude the use for which the lot
16 was originally intended, the applicable requirements in effect at the time the lot was recorded must be applied.
17 In the absence of specific requirements, minimum standards necessary to protect public health and water
18 quality apply.

19 ~~(8)(9)~~ The reviewing authority may not deny or condition a certificate of subdivision approval under
20 this part unless it provides a written statement to the applicant detailing the circumstances of the denial or
21 condition imposition. The statement must include:

22 (a) the reason for the denial or condition imposition;

23 (b) the evidence that justifies the denial or condition imposition; and

24 (c) information regarding the appeal process for the denial or condition imposition.

25 ~~(9)(10)~~ The department may adopt rules that provide technical details and clarification regarding the
26 water and sanitation information required to be submitted under 76-3-622."

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