



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Revised Committee Statement
LB 80

Hearing Date: January 17, 2007
Committee On: Natural Resources

Introducer(s): (Natural Resources)
Title: Authorize additional assistance for projects under the Safe Drinking Water Act

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

8	Yes	Senators Carlson, Christensen, Dubas, Fischer, Hudkins, Kopplin, Louden, Wallman
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
0	Absent	

Proponents:

Jody Gittins
 Pat Rice
 Gary Krumland

Representing:

Introducer
 Department of Environmental Quality
 League of Nebraska Municipalities

Opponents:

None

Representing:

Neutral:

None

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

The purpose of LB 80 is to expand the existing grants program under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Act to include communities smaller than 10,000 population.

Section 1 Provides the authority to the Department of Environmental Quality to provide up to 65% of the revenue from administrative fees for the prior fiscal year for loan forgiveness, emergency funding and financial assistance.

Gives the director the authority to transfer money in the Drinking Water Administration Fund to the Drinking Water Facilities Loan Fund to meet state

matching appropriations requirements of federal grants or to meet the purposes of providing loan forgiveness.

Section 2 No changes.

Section 3 Adds the following powers to the department under the Act:

- (9) To enter into agreements for the purpose of loan forgiveness to schools or public water systems operated by political subdivisions with populations of 10,000 or less which demonstrate serious financial hardships. The department may enter into loan agreements for up to one-half of the eligible project cost, subject to the availability of appropriated funds;
- (10) To provide emergency funding to schools or public water systems which have been damaged or destroyed by natural disaster or other unanticipated circumstances;
- (11) To provide financial assistance with the intended use plan, for completion of engineering studies, research projects to investigate low cost options for achieving compliance with standards, preliminary engineering reports, regional water planning, source water protection and other items for the purpose of assisting communities with 10,000 inhabitants or less, who can demonstrate hardship, to meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The department may enter into agreements for up to 90% of the eligible costs, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Section 4 Repealer.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The Committee amendment strikes the phrase “or schools” from the bill on page 7, line 24, and on page 8, lines 4 and 17.

This phrase has been struck because the portion of the Drinking Water Act that is addressed by this bill concerns municipalities and not the schools. Schools are eligible under different provisions of the Act.

Senator LeRoy Loudon, Chairperson