



Hundred Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 80

Chairperson: Leroy Louden
Committee: Natural Resources
Date of Hearing: January 17, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The purpose of this bill is to create a new grants program for communities of 10,000 population or less within the authority of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Act. Financing the planning and construction of drinking water projects is an exceptionally difficult and expensive process in communities smaller than 10,000 population. This proposal is to provide up to \$2,000,000 annually for planning, design and/or construction of drinking water projects including provisions to establish an emergency grant fund and provisions for planning grants to evaluate the feasibility of regional water systems. This authority would create a parallel program similar to the existing small town grants provisions of the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction Assistance Act. Funding for grants would come out of the existing fee system from fees deposited into the Drinking Water Administration Cash Fund and any so designated General Fund appropriations. Construction grants could also be characterized as loan forgiveness under provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act allowing the grants to count as state match toward meeting the 20% state match requirement for obtaining federal grants.

Principal Introducer:

Leroy Louden, Chairperson
Committee on Natural Resources