

HB 1783-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-3173
07/06

HOUSE BILL

1783-FN

AN ACT relative to benefits issued to certain water-related infrastructure projects.

SPONSORS: Rep. Muns, Rock. 29; Rep. Booras, Hills. 8; Rep. de Vries, Rock. 29; Rep. Hegner, Hills. 41; Rep. Howland, Straf. 20; Rep. Lane, Merr. 16; Rep. Maggiore, Rock. 23; Rep. Read, Rock. 10; Rep. Stavis, Graf. 13; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21

COMMITTEE: Resources, Recreation and Development

ANALYSIS

This bill enables the department of environmental services to confer certain benefits to certain water-based infrastructure projects.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

II. "Community based or regional wastewater treatment options" are community or regional small scale sewage disposal systems, as defined in RSA 485-A:2, XI; wastewater treatment plants, as

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1 defined in RSA 485-A:2, XVI-a; and/or wastewater facilities, as defined in RSA 485-A:2, XIX, that
2 may assist in reducing the minimum lot size required for any one single residence.

3 III. "Department" means the department of environmental services.

4 489-D:3 Administrative Actions.

5 I. The department shall determine whether an innovative community based or regional
6 water option or innovative community based or regional wastewater treatment option presented to it
7 will, in fact, enable the construction of residential properties on smaller lot sizes.

8 II. If the department determines that such innovative community based or regional water
9 option or innovative community based or regional wastewater treatment option will enable the
10 construction of residential properties on smaller lot sizes, it shall be entitled to receive from the
11 department, at its discretion, at least one of the following:

12 (a) Priority consideration for available grants;

13 (b) Expedited regulatory approval; or

14 (c) Exemptions from certain permitting requirements, as determined by the department.

15 4 Department of Environmental Services; Directive. The department of environmental services,
16 pursuant to RSA 488, shall adopt statewide or regional water-use standards for rental and owner-
17 occupied residences.

18 5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

HB 1783-FN- FISCAL NOTE
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AN ACT relative to benefits issued to certain water-related infrastructure projects.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	\$10,000 to \$100,000	\$10,000 to \$100,000	\$10,000 to \$100,000
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

***Expenditure = Cost of bill**

***Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill**

METHODOLOGY:

This bill authorizes the Department of Environmental Services to determine whether certain innovative community based or regional water and wastewater treatment projects enable residential development on smaller lot sizes and, if so, to provide discretionary benefits including priority consideration for grants, expedited regulatory approval, and exemptions from certain permitting requirements. The bill also authorizes eligible projects to receive preferred financing rates from the Municipal Bond Bank and directs the Department to adopt statewide or regional water use standards.

The Department of Environmental Services states this bill would increase state expenditures. This bill requires the Department to perform new determinations related to innovative water and wastewater projects, adopt new water use standards, and potentially modify existing financial assistance and regulatory processes to support housing related infrastructure. While existing staff can perform the work, the Department states that additional funding would be required because federal funds cannot be used for activities related to promoting new housing development. The Department estimates these costs would be between \$10,000 and \$100,000 per fiscal year beginning in FY 2027 and would require a General Fund appropriation.

Lastly, the Department of Environmental Services states this bill would have no direct fiscal impact on local governments. The fiscal impact to municipalities is permissive and

indeterminable, as participation is optional and any impact would depend on whether a municipality chooses to pursue preferred financing rates or other benefits authorized by this bill.

The Department of Business and Economic Affairs states this bill can be administered within the Department's existing operating budget.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Environmental Services and Department of Business and Economic Affairs