



The funding source for the studies is indeterminate. The measure is permissive, allowing for DSL to apply for and receive grants, loans or other funds, implementing a volume-based fee, or usage of the Common School Fund for conducting the studies. The number or amount of grants or loans available for studies related to removal and fill are indeterminate.

DSL states that a volume-based fee would be implemented to administer the removal and fill only if the amount of grant or other funding sources did not provide sufficient funding. DSL estimates that \$0.80 per cubic yard would be the maximum fee charged for the Department to cover costs of the removal and fill studies. The fee amount is based on the actual number of cubic yards per year taken from navigable and tidally influenced systems by operators that have removal fill permits and an estimated amount of cubic yards taken from the non-navigable, non-tidal systems.

The Department states that the usage of the Common School Fund toward conducting the studies would have a minimal impact on the Common School Fund distribution. The distribution is based on growth of the fund calculated as a percentage of a three year rolling average value of the fund. The Department notes that if Common School Funds were used to fund the total costs of the studies, the distribution would be reduced by less than \$35,000 per year.