

HB 5018

Department of Environmental Quality

HB 5018 is the budget bill for the Department of Environmental Quality. The Department of Environmental Quality administers the state's laws regulating air, water, and land pollution. The Department manages the federally delegated Clean Air and Clean Water programs, and administers state environmental programs in the areas of solid waste management, recycling, groundwater protection, and environmental cleanup.

The recommended budget for the Department is \$33.7 million General Fund, \$4 million Measure 76 Lottery Funds, \$149.8 million Other Funds, and \$29 million Federal Funds. The budget total also includes \$127 million of Nonlimited Other Funds for Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan activities and debt service.

The total funds budget is 3.2% higher than the 2013-15 legislatively approved budget level. The General Fund budget is 9% higher than 2013-15 levels due largely to investments in the Water Quality program. General Fund was added to: backfill for Federal Funds in the wastewater permitting and non-point source pollution programs; increases staffing in the wastewater permitting program to reduce permit backlog; and to continue increased air toxics monitoring begun last biennium. Other Fund expenditures from fee increases in the wastewater permitting, solid waste disposal, and the oil spill prevention programs were approved.

Your Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 5018 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.