

SB 58 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 02/25/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Dembrow, Findley, Robinson, Taylor

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 1/28, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to add a fee to payments made by credit card, in an amount reasonably calculated to offset transaction charges imposed by financial institutions. Authorizes DEQ to establish and collect surcharge on invoices generated by environmental data management system. Requires DEQ to set the surcharge amount on or before July 1st each year using a specified calculation and to notify all persons with active accounts. Caps surcharge at four percent of invoiced amount. Creates environmental data management system fund and requires deposit of invoice surcharge revenues. Appropriates surcharge moneys to DEQ for maintenance and operation of environmental data management system. Becomes operative on January 1, 2022. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Total cost of project
- Efficiencies provided by new system
- Experience of users in the programs that have started using the "Your DEQ Online" system

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Clarifies surcharge is calculated by multiplying the surcharge percentage rate by the amount of the fee or by the sum of the charges listed on the invoice. Prohibits surcharge percentage rate from exceeding four percent.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has begun modernization efforts to integrate application, payment, and reporting systems for 25 programs it administers, into one environmental data management system, known as Your DEQ Online. Once fully implemented, regulated entities will be able to submit applications and renewals, make electronic payments, track status, communicate with DEQ through a secure login, and in some cases, submit reports to both DEQ and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In addition, the public will have access to certain environmental data without having to submit a request for public records. DEQ has estimated that the total project will require an investment of \$18 to \$21 million over 10 years to cover the cost of system development and implementation.

Senate Bill 58 A authorizes DEQ to add a reasonable fee to recover credit card transaction costs and a surcharge on invoices generated by the environmental data management system.