



HB20-1215

SHORT TITLE: Sunset Water Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Board

LONG TITLE: Concerning the continuation of the water and wastewater facility operators' certification board, and, in connection therewith, implementing the recommendations contained in the 2019 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies.

SPONSORS: Rep. A. Valdez

COMMITTEES: House Energy & Environment Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To implement the recommendations of the Sunset Review by the Dept. of Regulatory Agencies concerning continuation of the Water and Wastewater Operators Certification Board.

PROPONENTS: Dept. of Regulatory Agencies

STAKEHOLDERS: Water and Wastewater facility operators who must be certified.

BACKGROUND: All boards and agencies of the state undergo a periodic review by the Department of Regulatory Agencies to determine if they are operating in accordance with their statutory directive, whether they are protecting the public, and whether they are regulating in the least restrictive manner necessary. Statutory criteria are applied to each review and a report is issued to the General Assembly at which time the report is assigned to a legislative committee for review and adoption of necessary legislation. This legislation extends the board until the next review in 2031.

Is the bill necessary this year? Yes, without legislation to continue an agency or program, it automatically sunsets.

How does the bill change current law? It amends the definition of "domestic wastewater treatment facility" to exclude only those small on-site wastewater treatment systems with a design capacity of 2,000 gallons or less per day, unless the system discharges directly to surface water. It repeals the exclusion of facilities designed to operate for less than one year and facilities with in-situ discharges from the definition of "industrial wastewater treatment facilities". It creates a water and wastewater facility operators fund for fees that the board receives directly and uses for the exclusive use of the regulatory program and repeals an obsolete provision of law relating to a reorganization of the board on July 1, 2004).

How is the bill implemented? The board sets fees which are deposited into a fund established in the State Treasurer's office.

Does the bill affect prior appropriation? No.

Practical considerations:

Fiscal impact: No fiscal note available.