

STATE OF NEW YORK

4350

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 7, 2023

Introduced by Sen. HINCHEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to establishing the safe water infrastructure action program for the purpose of making payments toward the replacement and rehabilitation of certain existing drinking water, storm water and sanitary sewer systems

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a
2 new section 3-0322 to read as follows:

3 § 3-0322. Safe water and infrastructure action program.

4 1. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter or any other
5 law and subject to an appropriation made therefor and in accordance with
6 the provisions of this section and with the rules and regulations
7 promulgated by the commissioner in connection therewith, on and after
8 the first day of April, two thousand twenty-four, a consolidated local
9 infrastructure program is hereby established for the purpose of making
10 payments toward the replacement and rehabilitation of existing local
11 municipally-owned and funded drinking water, storm water and sanitary
12 sewer systems. For purposes of this section, such program shall apply to
13 any drinking water system, storm water system or sanitary sewer system
14 within the state that is under the maintenance and/or operational juris-
15 isdiction of a county, city, town, village or public authority; provided,
16 however, that such system shall not be under the maintenance and/or
17 operational jurisdiction of a private entity; provided further, however,
18 that such program shall not apply to a system that is under the mainte-
19 nance and/or operational jurisdiction of a city with a population of one
20 million or more. The commissioner, in conjunction with the environmental
21 facilities corporation, shall promulgate all necessary rules and regu-
22 lations to carry out the program so that an equitable distribution of

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 aid shall be made for the general operation and/or general maintenance
2 of any such existing drinking water system, storm water system or sani-
3 tary sewer system. Existing water infrastructure includes all the man-
4 made and natural features that move and treat water in terms of drinking
5 water, waste water, and storm water. Monies from this fund may be used
6 for maintenance and repairs of existing water infrastructure as well as
7 new water infrastructure expansion, but only into already developed
8 areas so as not to support sprawl and development of natural areas.
9 Already developed areas are those that are zoned/defined by munici-
10 palities as of January first, two thousand twenty-three as commercial
11 and residential use.

12 2. On or before the twenty-fifth day of April, June, September and
13 November of each state fiscal year commencing with the state fiscal year
14 beginning on April first, two thousand twenty-five, there shall be
15 distributed and paid to counties, cities, towns, villages and public
16 authorities an amount equal to the moneys appropriated for the purposes
17 of this section divided by the number of payment dates in that state
18 fiscal year. Such amounts shall be distributed and paid pursuant to
19 subdivision three of this section.

20 3. Amounts shall be distributed for local drinking water, storm water
21 and sanitary sewer systems based upon a funding formula that the depart-
22 ment and the department of health shall create taking into consideration
23 factors including but not limited to: the system's length and width of
24 pipes; other physical assets maintained by the system, including treat-
25 ment facilities and pumping stations; the age of the system's infras-
26 tructure; and relevant socioeconomic factors, including the presence of
27 disadvantaged communities within a system's service area, to achieve an
28 equitable distribution of aid.

29 4. Monies made available may be used to match other state and federal
30 funds made available for such projects. The remainder of the apportion-
31 ment may be used for any existing drinking water, storm water or sewer
32 system purchases, including but not limited to, the acquisition of mate-
33 rials for the replacement or rehabilitation.

34 5. For any city, town, village or public authority which proposes
35 infrastructure consolidation under this section or merges with another
36 municipality, the funds appropriated under this section may fund costs
37 associated with such consolidation.

38 6. For each fiscal year, starting in two thousand twenty-five, funds
39 are to be made available to the local infrastructure assistance account
40 of the general fund, and distributed from that account.

41 7. At the end of each fiscal year, each county, city, town, village
42 and public authority that receives funding pursuant to this section
43 shall submit an annual report to the department detailing how such money
44 was used. The department shall compile all reports and submit them to
45 the comptroller for their review. Once a report is finalized, it shall
46 be made publicly available on the department's website. The department
47 and the comptroller shall reserve the right to conduct sight visits to
48 ensure the money is being used accurately.

49 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.