

SENATE BILL NO. 112

INTRODUCED BY D. ANKNEY

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

5 TO PRIORITIZE DEVELOPMENT OF A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) WHEN A COMPLETE TMDL

6 IS REQUIRED FOR ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT TO DISCHARGE INTO STATE WATERS; SETTING DEADLINES

7 FOR TMDL COMPLETION ~~AND PENALTIES FOR MISSING DEADLINES; ALLOWING AN APPLICANT TO~~

8 PROVIDE FUNDING FOR TMDL DEVELOPMENT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; ALLOWING FOR A

9 HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW; REQUIRING TMDL DEVELOPMENT FOR

10 EXISTING APPLICATIONS TO DISCHARGE INTO STATE WATERS THAT REQUIRE A COMPLETE TMDL;

11 AMENDING SECTION 75-5-702, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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15 **Section 1.** Section 75-5-702, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"75-5-702. Monitoring -- water quality assessment listing -- costs payable by department --**

17 **statewide advisory group.** (1) The department shall monitor state waters to assess the quality of those waters

18 and to identify surface water bodies or segments of surface water bodies that are threatened or impaired. The

19 department shall use the monitoring results to revise the list of water bodies that are identified as threatened or

20 impaired and to establish a priority ranking for TMDL development for those waters in accordance with

21 subsections (4) and (7).

22 (2) In revising the list prepared pursuant to this section, the department shall use all currently available

23 data, including information or data obtained from federal, state, and local agencies, private entities, or individuals

24 with an interest in water quality protection. Except as provided in subsection (6), the department may modify the

25 list only if there is sufficient credible data to support the modification. Prior to publishing a final list, the department

26 shall provide public notice and allow 60 days for public comment on the draft list. The department shall make

27 available for public review, upon request, documentation used in the determination to list or delist a particular

28 water body, including, at a minimum, a description of the information, data, and methodology used. The

29 department may charge a reasonable fee for the documentation, commensurate with the cost of providing the

30 documentation to the requestor.

1 (3) A person may request that the department add or remove a water body or reprioritize a water body
2 on a draft or published list by providing the data or information necessary to support the request. The department
3 shall review the data within 60 days from its submittal. If the department determines that there is sufficient credible
4 data to grant the request, the department shall provide public notice of its intended action and allow 60 days for
5 public comment prior to taking action on the request. A person aggrieved by the department's decision to grant
6 or deny the request may appeal the department's decision to the board.

7 (4) The department shall, in consultation with local conservation districts and watershed advisory groups
8 pursuant to 75-5-704, review and revise the list and priority rankings of water bodies identified as threatened or
9 impaired. The department shall review and revise the list at intervals not to exceed 5 years. The department shall
10 make available for public review the data and information used in making any changes in its list of threatened or
11 impaired water bodies that is developed and maintained pursuant to this section.

12 (5) By October 1, 1999, and in consultation with the statewide TMDL advisory group established
13 pursuant to subsection ~~(9)~~ (10), the department shall develop and maintain a data management system that can
14 be used to assess the validity and reliability of the data used in the listing and priority ranking process. The
15 department shall make available to the public, upon request, data from its data management system. The
16 department may charge a reasonable fee for the data, commensurate with its cost of providing the data to the
17 requestor.

18 (6) By October 1, 1999, and in consultation with the statewide TMDL advisory group, the department
19 shall use the data management system developed and maintained pursuant to subsection (5) to revise the list
20 and to remove any water body that lacks sufficient credible data to support its listing. If the department removes
21 a water body because there is a lack of sufficient credible data to support its listing, the department shall monitor
22 and assess that water body during the next field season or as soon as possible thereafter to determine whether
23 it is a threatened water body or an impaired water body.

24 (7) ~~In~~ Except as provided in subsection (9), in prioritizing water bodies for TMDL development, the
25 department shall, in consultation with the statewide TMDL advisory group, take into consideration the following:

- 26 (a) the beneficial uses established for a water body;
27 (b) the extent that natural factors over which humans have no control are contributing to any impairment;
28 (c) the impacts to human health and aquatic life;
29 (d) the degree of public interest and support;
30 (e) the character of the pollutant and the severity and magnitude of water quality standard

1 noncompliance;

2 (f) whether the water body is an important high-quality resource in an early stage of degradation;

3 (g) the size of the water body not achieving standards;

4 (h) immediate programmatic needs, such as waste load allocations for new permits or permit renewals
5 and load allocations for new nonpoint sources;

6 (i) court orders and decisions relating to water quality;

7 (j) state policies and priorities, including the protection and restoration of native fish when appropriate;

8 (k) the availability of technology and resources to correct the problems;

9 (l) whether actions or voluntary programs that are likely to correct the impairment of a particular water
10 body are currently in place; and

11 (m) the recreational, economic, and aesthetic importance of a particular water body.

12 (8) ~~The~~ Except as provided in subsection (9), the department shall, in consultation with the statewide
13 TMDL advisory group, develop a method of rating water bodies according to the criteria and considerations
14 described in subsection (7) in order to rank the listed water bodies as high priority, moderate priority, or low
15 priority for TMDL development. The department may not rank a water body as a high priority under this section
16 without first validating the data necessary to support the ranking.

17 ~~(9) (a) If department approval of a permit to discharge into state waters pursuant to 75-5-401 would~~
18 ~~require incorporation of a TMDL but a TMDL is not developed for an affected water body or an affected segment~~
19 ~~of a water body on the date of the application, the department shall:~~

20 ~~—— (i) within 30 days of the department's receipt of the application, initiate the development of a TMDL on~~
21 ~~the affected water body or the affected segment of the water body; and~~

22 ~~—— (ii) within 180 days of the department's receipt of the application, complete development of the TMDL~~
23 ~~pursuant to 75-5-703.~~

24 ~~—— (b) The department may not, in the absence of a TMDL on the affected water body or an affected~~
25 ~~segment of a water body:~~

26 ~~—— (i) declare an application incomplete; or~~

27 ~~—— (ii) cite the lack of a TMDL as a deficiency in the application.~~

28 ~~—— (c) The department shall, within 180 days of [the effective date of this act], develop a TMDL for an~~
29 ~~affected water body or an affected segment of a water body for which an application to discharge into state waters~~
30 ~~was submitted prior to [the effective date of this act] but for which a TMDL is not complete.~~

1 ~~_____ (d) The department shall pay all costs reasonably incurred by an applicant whose permit to discharge~~
2 ~~into state waters is delayed by the department missing deadlines required by this subsection (9).~~

3 (9) (A) WHEN THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES AN APPLICATION FOR A NEW INDIVIDUAL PERMIT TO DISCHARGE INTO
4 A SURFACE WATER BODY OR A SEGMENT OF A SURFACE WATER BODY PURSUANT TO 75-5-401, THE SURFACE WATER BODY
5 OR SEGMENT OF A SURFACE WATER BODY HAS BEEN LISTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, THE
6 DISCHARGE WOULD CONTAIN A POLLUTANT FOR WHICH THE WATER BODY OR SEGMENT IS THREATENED OR IMPAIRED, AND
7 A TMDL HAS NOT BEEN DEVELOPED FOR THAT WATER BODY OR SEGMENT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

8 (i) WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION, INITIATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
9 TMDL ON THE WATER BODY OR SEGMENT; AND

10 (ii) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (9)(B), WITHIN 180 DAYS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S RECEIPT OF THE
11 APPLICATION, COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TMDL PURSUANT TO 75-5-703.

12 (B) IF THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT ABLE TO COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TMDL IN ACCORDANCE WITH
13 SUBSECTION (9)(A)(II), THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION,
14 SPECIFY IN WRITING TO THE APPLICANT WHY THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT ABLE TO COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT OF A TMDL IN
15 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (9)(A)(II). THE DEPARTMENT AND THE APPLICANT SHALL MAKE REASONABLE EFFORTS
16 TO MUTUALLY AGREE IN WRITING TO A TIMEFRAME IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
17 TMDL. IF THE DEPARTMENT SPECIFIES A LACK OF RESOURCES AS A REASON WHY THE DEPARTMENT CANNOT COMPLETE
18 DEVELOPMENT OF THE TMDL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (9)(A)(II), THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CLEARLY EXPLAIN
19 IN ITS WRITTEN SPECIFICATION WHAT RESOURCES ARE NOT AVAILABLE, WHY THOSE RESOURCES ARE NOT AVAILABLE, AND
20 WHEN THOSE RESOURCES WILL BE AVAILABLE.

21 (C) IF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE APPLICANT CANNOT MUTUALLY AGREE TO A TIMEFRAME IN ACCORDANCE WITH
22 SUBSECTION (9)(B), THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION,
23 SPECIFY IN WRITING TO THE APPLICANT THE TIMEFRAME IN WHICH THE TMDL WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE DEPARTMENT
24 AND THE REASONS WHY THAT TIMEFRAME IS APPROPRIATE. IF THE DEPARTMENT SPECIFIES A LACK OF RESOURCES AS A
25 REASON WHY THE DEPARTMENT'S TIMEFRAME IS APPROPRIATE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY REQUEST THE APPLICANT PROVIDE
26 FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TMDL IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE THE COMPLETION OF THE TMDL.

27 (D) THE APPLICANT MAY, WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WRITTEN SPECIFICATION PROVIDED IN
28 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (9)(C), REQUEST IN WRITING A HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD FOR THE PURPOSE OF
29 PETITIONING THE BOARD TO REVERSE OR MODIFY THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION. THE CONTESTED CASE PROVISIONS OF
30 THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT, TITLE 2, CHAPTER 4, PART 6, APPLY TO A HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD

1 UNDER THIS SUBSECTION. IF THE PARTIES TO THE CONTESTED CASE WAIVE A FORMAL PROCEEDING PURSUANT TO
 2 2-4-603, THE INFORMAL PROCEEDING MUST BE CONDUCTED WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE BOARD'S RECEIPT OF WRITTEN
 3 REQUEST. AFTER THE HEARING AND IN A REASONABLE TIME, THE BOARD SHALL AFFIRM, MODIFY, OR REVERSE THE ACTION
 4 OF THE DEPARTMENT, AND THE BOARD SHALL MAKE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS THAT EXPLAIN ITS DECISION. PENDING
 5 THE BOARD'S DECISION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP THE TMDL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TIMEFRAME SPECIFIED
 6 IN SUBSECTION (9)(A)(II).

7 (E) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT DECLARE AN APPLICATION INCOMPLETE OR DEFICIENT BECAUSE A TMDL HAS
 8 NOT BEEN PREPARED.

9 (F) IF ON [THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT], AN APPLICATION FOR A NEW INDIVIDUAL PERMIT TO DISCHARGE INTO
 10 A SURFACE WATER BODY OR A SEGMENT OF A SURFACE WATER BODY PURSUANT TO 75-5-401 IS PENDING, THE SURFACE
 11 WATER BODY OR SEGMENT OF A SURFACE WATER BODY HAS BEEN LISTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION,
 12 THE DISCHARGE WOULD CONTAIN A POLLUTANT FOR WHICH THE WATER BODY OR SEGMENT IS THREATENED OR IMPAIRED,
 13 AND A TMDL HAS NOT BEEN DEVELOPED FOR THE WATER BODY OR SEGMENT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, EXCEPT AS
 14 PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (9)(G), COMPLETE A TMDL FOR THE WATER BODY OR SEGMENT WITHIN 180 DAYS OF [THE
 15 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT].

16 (G) IF THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT ABLE TO COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TMDL WITHIN 180 DAYS OF [THE
 17 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT] PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9)(F), THEN THE TIMEFRAMES ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE
 18 WITH SUBSECTIONS (9)(B), (9)(C), AND (9)(D) APPLY TO THE APPLICATION, BUT THE TIMEFRAMES ARE MEASURED FROM
 19 [THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT], NOT FROM THE DATE THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES AN APPLICATION.

20 ~~(9) (a)(10) (a)~~ (a) The department shall establish a statewide TMDL advisory group to serve in the
 21 consultation capacity set forth in 75-5-703, 75-5-704, and this section. Fourteen members, and any replacement
 22 members that may be necessary, must be appointed by the director, based upon one nomination from each of
 23 the following interests:

- 24 (i) livestock-oriented agriculture;
- 25 (ii) farming-oriented agriculture;
- 26 (iii) conservation or environmental interests;
- 27 (iv) water-based recreationists;
- 28 (v) the forestry industry;
- 29 (vi) municipalities;
- 30 (vii) point source dischargers;

- 1 (viii) mining;
- 2 (ix) federal land management agencies;
- 3 (x) state trust land management agencies;
- 4 (xi) supervisors of soil and water conservation districts for counties east of the continental divide;
- 5 (xii) supervisors of soil and water conservation districts for counties west of the continental divide;
- 6 (xiii) the hydroelectric industry; and
- 7 (xiv) fishing-related businesses.
- 8 (b) If the director receives more than one nomination from a particular interest, the director shall notify
- 9 the respective nominators and request that they agree on one nominee.
- 10 ~~(10)~~(11) The department shall provide public notice of meetings of the statewide TMDL advisory group
- 11 and shall solicit, document, and consider public comments provided during the deliberations of the advisory
- 12 group."

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14 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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