

FISCAL NOTE

June 17, 2019

Bill No:	SB 619	Printer's No:	857	Sponsor:	Yaw (R)
-----------------	--------	----------------------	-----	-----------------	---------

COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2018-19	2019-20
General Fund- Clean Water Fund	See "FISCAL IMPACT"	\$1 million
General Fund	See "FISCAL IMPACT"	\$400,000

SUMMARY: SB 619 amends the Clean Streams Law to provide a threshold for reporting accidental spills of pollutants to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

ANALYSIS: Currently, any spill of pollutants must be reported to DEP. SB 619 stipulates that a spill or discharge which is not significant enough in volume to violate either State or Federal water quality standards does not need to be reported to DEP.

SB 619 takes effect 60 days after passage.

FISCAL IMPACT: DEP collects roughly \$2 million in civil penalties each year, about half of which are issued for accidental spills or discharges. So, SB 619 would cause the Clean Water Fund to lose \$1 million in annual revenue from fines. Additionally, this legislation would make it more difficult for DEP to identify spill sources and defend their enforcement against legal challenges. In order to increase their efforts in the field and on legal counsel DEP would need to hire two additional full-time employees at an annual cost of \$400,000 for salary and benefits. SB 619 therefore carries \$1.4 million in annual costs.