

FISCAL NOTE

May 12, 2020

Bill No:	SB 679	Printer's No:	1395	Sponsor:	Yaw (R)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2019-20	2020-21
General Fund	See "FISCAL IMPACT"	\$577,000

SUMMARY: SB 679 amends the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act to require counties to develop and implement regional stream maintenance programs in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

ANALYSIS: SB 679 amends the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act to require counties to develop stream remediation programs for regional "curves" accounting for both rural areas and municipalities surrounding waterways. These curves are based off drainage area measurements and waterflow rates.

Counties must then apply for a permit from DEP for their locally tailored program. DEP must approve their application before the county begins implementing their program. DEP is also required to develop a training program on stream maintenance techniques for counties to utilize.

SB 679 mandates that the Environmental Quality Board promulgate regulations on the removal of obstructions in streams for the benefit of counties as they develop their stream maintenance programs.

SB 679 takes effect 60 days after passage.

FISCAL IMPACT: In order to review applications for permits for these stream maintenance programs, and to develop an adequate training program for counties DEP would need to hire five additional full-time employees. DEP estimates that the annual cost of salary and benefits for each of these five positions would average \$115,388 for a total of \$576,939 each year.