

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: May 29, 2008
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: SB 1258
AUTHOR: A. Lowenthal

BILL SUMMARY: Graywater Standards

Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in consultation with the Department of Public Health and the Center for Irrigation Technology at California State University, Fresno, to adopt standards for the installation of graywater systems. This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to adopt standards for the installation, construction, and alteration of graywater systems at the next triennial rulemaking cycle, and submit the standards to the California Buildings Standards Commission (BSC). In developing the standards, this bill would require the DHCD to convene a stakeholders group and consider specified issues. Upon adoption of the standards by the BSC, DWR's authority to adopt graywater standards for residential buildings only would terminate. This bill would also allow a local agency to prohibit the use of graywater or adopt more restrictive graywater standards.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Because this bill would require the adoption of graywater standards as part of the next triennial building standards cycle, the fiscal impact of this bill to the DHCD would be minor and absorbable.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Amendments to this bill since our analysis of the April 9, 2008 version include the following significant amendments which do change our position: (1) requires the DHCD to adopt and submit gray water regulations to the BSC at the next triennial building and standards rulemaking cycle that commences on or after January 1, 2009, (2) allows a local agency to prohibit the use of graywater or adopt more restrictive graywater standards and (3) terminates the DWR's authority to adopt standards for residential buildings upon approval by the BSC of the HCD's graywater standards.

COMMENTS

Finance is neutral on this bill as it presents no fiscal concerns. Finance notes, however, that current graywater standards, adopted by the Building Standards Commission as Appendix G, are found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 5 and the DWR currently has the authority to revise the standards as needed. Finance also notes that this will create two different entities that promulgate graywater standards depending on the type of building in which the graywater system is used.

Graywater is defined as untreated waste water which has not come into contact with toilet waste, including but not limited to, water from bathtubs, showers, bathroom wash basins, clothes washing machines, and laundry tubs. It does not include waste water from kitchen sinks, photo lab sinks, dishwashers, or laundry water from soiled diapers.

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Analyst/Principal (0631) M. Almy	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)

AUTHOR

AMENDMENT DATE

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A. Lowenthal

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SB 1258

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2007-2008	FC	2008-2009	FC	2009-2010	
2240/HCD	SO	No		-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0001