

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23165

This is a trailer appropriation to H406 in the amount of \$300,000 from the General Fund. H406 provides the language necessary for the state to start the process of taking over the administration and enforcement of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). This money is to be used by the Department of Environmental Quality to cover the first year's costs of seeking primacy from the Environmental Protection Agency. NPDES is a major component of the Clean Water Act. Currently, all point source wastewater discharge permits must be issued by the Environmental Protection Agency by staff in Seattle or Anchorage. Although the Department of Environmental Quality receives a grant from EPA to conduct 50 inspections and 10 complaint investigations per year, businesses and municipalities would prefer to work with a state agency through the entire permitting and enforcement process.

The Department of Environmental Quality worked with the sponsor of H406, the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, to estimate the first year's costs. This appropriation bill provides funding for three full-time equivalent positions as follows: \$110,000 for salary and benefits for one Division Manager, \$93,800 for salary and benefits for one program manager analyst, and \$80,800 for salary and benefits for one analyst. The bill also provides \$15,400 for travel, materials, office supplies, and rent costs. Work tasks for these three new employees include developing a funding strategy, developing rules, developing guidance, drafting statutes, drafting a memorandum of agreement, and developing an application package.

The Department has roughed out an eight-year scope, schedule, and budget to take over primacy. This appropriation is provided as ongoing with the understanding the program will have significantly higher costs in the future. Costs at full build-out in 2022 are estimated at 25 full-time positions and \$2.5 million.

FISCAL NOTE

Appropriates an additional \$300,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Environmental Quality for fiscal year 2015 ongoing.

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