May 25, 2006

S 2026. WASTEWATER SYS. APPROVALS/SMALL COUNTIES. Filed 5/25/06. *TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO STREAMLINE THE PROCESS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF AN IMPROVEMENT PERMIT OR AN AUTHORIZATION TO CONSTRUCT FOR AN ON-SITE SUBSURFACE WASTEWATER SYSTEM IN CERTAIN COUNTIES BY AUTHORIZING LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, AUTHORIZED AGENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND LICENSED SOIL SCIENTISTS TO COMPLETE SOIL AND SITE EVALUATIONS IN THE PARTICIPATING COUNTIES*. Directs the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to develop and implement a pilot program for issuing improvement permits for on-site wastewater systems. The program must begin by October 1, 2006, and end on July 1, 2011. Defines eligible counties as those with (1) populations of 25,000 or less at the most recent decennial census, (2) at least 900 applications for improvement permits or authorizations to construct pending before the local health department, and (3) resolutions from both the board of county commissioners and the local board of health seeking to participate in the program. The program will permit local health departments to issue improvement permits after (1) a soil and site evaluation has been completed by the Department or local health department or (2) a licensed soil scientist has submitted to the local health department a completed soil and site evaluation for a system designed to treat 3,000 gallons per day or less of sewage. Requires that a licensed soil scientist, who either submits a soil and site evaluation or reviews one for the local health department, have liability insurance coverage with policy limits of not less than $1 million per claim. Authorizes the local health department to impose fees not to exceed $500 for the costs of review and consideration of applications for an improvement permit or an authorization to construct. Requires the Department to evaluate the program and report its findings to the Environmental Review Commission. Effective July 1, 2006, appropriates $5,000 from the General Fund to the Department to implement the program in fiscal year 2006-07.

Intro. by Snow. APPROP