



# HOUSE BILL 20: 1998 Clean Water Bond Add'l Connections.

2021-2022 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Local Government - Land Use, Planning and Development. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 1, 2021
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Sasser, Moss	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Billy R. Godwin
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 20 would require the Secretary of Environmental Quality (Secretary) to authorize additional connections to waterlines funded by the 1998 Clean Water and Natural Gas Critical Needs Bond Act of 1998.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The *Clean Water and Natural Gas Critical Needs Bond Act of 1998* (Act), as amended by Section 5 of S.L. 2011-412, authorized issuance of general obligation bonds of the State to fund grants and loans to local governments for water supply and distribution systems, wastewater collection systems, wastewater treatment works, water conservation projects, and water reuse projects.

The Act prohibits using bond funds to construct new water or sewer lines in areas designated as WS-I or the critical areas of WS-II, WS-III, or WS-IV, but requires the Secretary to grant a waiver allowing additional connections to those lines where the design capacity and size of the existing bond-funded waterline can accommodate the additional connections, and the purpose of the additional connection is to (i) address an existing threat to public health or water quality, or (ii) provide water to a habitable structure located on a lot zoned for single-family residential use. There is no requirement that the structure existed at the time the bond-funded waterline was constructed.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 20 would expand the waiver the Secretary must grant to include allowing structures located on lots zoned for residential use or mixed-use development to connect to bond-funded waterlines.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to requests for waivers submitted on or before that date.

*Staff Attorney Aaron McGlothlin substantially contributed to this summary.*

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