

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 2123

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblyman BURZICHELLI)

ADOPTED: JANUARY 28, 2013

These floor amendments make changes to section 3 of the bill concerning the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) responsibilities related to the Drinking Water Quality Institute.

The amendments provide that the DEP may invite interested stakeholder groups to meet with the DEP to explain any data and materials submitted during the call for information period.

The amendments change the parameters the DEP is to use when reviewing information submitted during the call for information period. Under the bill as amended, the DEP would be required to: use a structured, transparent evaluative framework consisting of uniform, objective science-based criteria for systematically evaluating data relevance, quality and reliability; place an emphasis on studies and submissions that comply with Good Laboratory Practice regulations; utilize peer review, standardized protocols, valid test methods, complete datasets, and other appropriate methods to ensure a high degree of scientific quality; and use a consistent and transparent weight-of-the-evidence approach when it is necessary to integrate results from several studies. In addition, when determining study relevance, reliability and data quality, the DEP is to apply uniform criteria, irrespective of the funding source or affiliation of the investigators.

Lastly, the amendments authorize the DEP to meet with interested stakeholder groups to address any questions related to the revised draft chemical risk assessment, rather than requiring the DEP to hold a public hearing on the revised draft chemical risk assessment or to meet with interested stakeholders in order to respond to their concerns.