

ASSEMBLY, No. 2760

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Directs BPU to establish two-year innovative drinking water supply and wastewater infrastructure grant program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning the development and promotion of innovative
2 drinking water supply and wastewater infrastructure projects, and
3 supplementing P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-49 et al.).
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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
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8 1. a. In addition to the programs offered by the board pursuant
9 to section 12 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-60), the board shall
10 establish a two-year program to provide grants, from the societal
11 benefits charge collected pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1999, c.23
12 (C.48:3-60), for the development and promotion of innovative
13 drinking water supply and wastewater infrastructure projects that
14 would improve the quality and functioning of the State's publicly-
15 owned drinking water supply and wastewater systems.

16 The program established pursuant to this section shall provide
17 grants to individuals, businesses, business incubation facilities, not-
18 for-profit corporations, and public and private institutions of higher
19 education to develop and promote innovative technology that may
20 be used as pilot or demonstration projects at publicly-owned
21 drinking water supply or wastewater systems throughout the State
22 to improve the quality and functioning of those systems. An
23 upgrade or improvement to existing infrastructure shall not qualify
24 for a grant pursuant to this act unless it is part of a pilot or
25 demonstration project implementing an innovative new technology.

26 Innovative technologies and the pilot or demonstration projects
27 developed pursuant to this program shall: improve the delivery of
28 safe, clean water; improve overall water flow; improve water
29 purification processes; aid in water conservation and energy
30 efficiency efforts; improve system infrastructure; or otherwise assist
31 publicly-owned drinking water supply and wastewater facilities, as
32 applicable, with better, affordable, and cleaner methods to clean,
33 conserve, and deliver water. Consideration shall be given to
34 technologies and projects that implement energy efficiency
35 measures or incorporate renewable energy technologies, including
36 implementation of innovative technologies such as in-pipe
37 hydropower, in order to reduce energy consumption and provide
38 long-term sustainability and potential cost savings.

39 b. The board shall:

40 (1) develop this program in consultation with the New Jersey
41 Infrastructure Bank, established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1985,
42 c.334 (C.58:11B-4), the New Jersey Corporation for Advanced
43 Technology established pursuant to P.L.1999, c.400 (C.13:1D-134
44 et seq.), and any other entities or individual experts the board deems
45 appropriate to assist in the development and promotion of new and
46 emerging technologies to improve the quality, infrastructure, or
47 overall operations of the State's drinking water supply or
48 wastewater systems;

1 (2) solicit proposals for innovative technologies that may be
2 used by a publicly-owned drinking water supply or wastewater
3 system to improve the quality, infrastructure, or overall operations
4 of the system;

5 (3) issue guidelines or procedures for the submittal of proposals
6 for funding, and criteria for the evaluation of such proposals for
7 funding;

8 (4) notify all publicly-owned drinking water supply and
9 wastewater systems of this program and any solicitation for a
10 proposal for innovative technology, and provide an opportunity for
11 publicly-owned drinking water supply and wastewater systems to
12 identify to the board any particular issues they may have and
13 suggestions for solicitations for proposals;

14 (5) facilitate the coordination of interested publicly-owned
15 drinking water supply or wastewater systems, as appropriate, with
16 grant recipients for the implementation of the innovative
17 technology;

18 (6) establish guidelines or procedures for the use of any
19 proposal at a publicly-owned drinking water supply or wastewater
20 system, and measures to evaluate the efficacy of the proposal and
21 its suitability for use on drinking water supply or wastewater
22 systems, as appropriate, throughout the State;

23 (7) publicize on its Internet website, and through any other
24 appropriate means, the application procedures for the submittal of
25 proposals and the awarding of grants pursuant to this act;

26 (8) require all grant recipients and publicly-owned drinking
27 water supply or wastewater systems participating in a pilot or
28 demonstration project to report to the board on the implementation
29 of an innovative technology; and

30 (9) adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
31 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), such rules and regulations as
32 may be necessary for implementation of this act.

33 c. The board shall determine the total amount of grants funded
34 in each year of the program, and the amount of each grant awarded
35 shall be determined by the board based on the proposals for
36 innovative technologies it receives and the number of drinking
37 water supply or wastewater systems at which each innovative
38 technology may be implemented as a pilot or demonstration project.

39 d. The board shall submit, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
40 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), a report to the Legislature detailing the
41 program established pursuant to this section and including a
42 description of each grant awarded pursuant to this act. The report
43 shall include an evaluation of each project funded and a
44 recommendation as to whether the project is suitable for
45 implementation Statewide.

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47 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on the
48 first day of the 25th month after the date of enactment.

STATEMENT

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This bill directs the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to establish a two-year program to provide grants for the development and promotion of innovative drinking water supply and wastewater infrastructure projects that would improve the quality and functioning of the State’s publicly-owned drinking water supply and wastewater systems.

Grants would be made available to individuals, businesses, business incubation facilities, not-for-profit corporations, and public and private institutions of higher education to develop and promote innovative technologies that may be used in pilot or demonstration projects at publicly-owned drinking water supply and wastewater systems, where appropriate, throughout the State to improve the quality and functioning of those systems. An upgrade or improvement to existing infrastructure would not qualify for a grant unless it is part of a pilot or demonstration project implementing an innovative new technology.

Innovative technologies and the pilot or demonstration projects developed pursuant to this program would: improve the delivery of safe, clean water; improve overall water flow; improve water purification processes; aid in water conservation and energy efficiency efforts; improve system infrastructure; or otherwise assist publicly-owned drinking water supply and wastewater facilities, as applicable, with better, affordable, and cleaner methods to clean, conserve, and deliver water. In addition, consideration would be given to technologies and projects that implement energy efficiency measures or incorporate renewable energy technologies, including implementation of innovative technologies such as in-pipe hydropower, in order to reduce energy consumption and provide long-term sustainability and potential cost savings.

The board would determine the total amount of grants funded in each year of the program, and the amount of each grant would be determined by the board based on the proposals for innovative technologies it receives and the number of drinking water supply or wastewater systems at which each innovative technology may be implemented as a pilot or demonstration project.

This bill is a “call to action” to form a public-private partnership to help solve one of the most important environmental problems facing the State, i.e., the decay of its critical infrastructure that provides drinking water and treats wastewater for the health and welfare of the State, its citizens, and the environment. The program is intended to assist publicly-owned drinking water supply and wastewater facilities that are thinking about the future and are looking for better, affordable, and cleaner ways to clean, conserve, and deliver water.