

House Study Bill 224

Conference Committee Text

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1 1 Section 1. Section 455E.11, subsection 2, paragraph b,
1 2 subparagraph (3), subparagraph subdivision (b), Code 1995, is
1 3 amended by striking the subparagraph subdivision and inserting
1 4 in lieu thereof the following:

1 5 (b) Two percent is appropriated annually to the department
1 6 for the purpose of administering grants to counties and
1 7 conducting oversight of county-based programs for the testing
1 8 of private rural water supply wells, private rural water
1 9 supply well sealing, and the proper closure of private rural
1 10 abandoned wells and cisterns. Not more than thirty-five
1 11 percent of the moneys is appropriated annually for grants to
1 12 counties for the purpose of conducting programs of private
1 13 rural water supply testing, private rural water supply well
1 14 sealing, the proper closure of private rural abandoned wells
1 15 and cisterns, or any combination thereof.

1 16 A county applying for grants under this subparagraph
1 17 subdivision shall submit only one application. To be eligible
1 18 for a grant, a county must have adopted standards for private
1 19 water supply and private disposal facilities at least as
1 20 stringent as the standards adopted by the commission. During
1 21 each fiscal year, the amount granted each eligible applicant
1 22 shall be the total funds available divided by the number of
1 23 eligible counties applying. Upon receipt of the grant, the
1 24 county may apply the funds to any one or more of the above
1 25 three programs.

1 26 Not more than six percent of the moneys is appropriated
1 27 annually to the state hygienic laboratory to assist in well
1 28 testing. For purposes of this subparagraph subdivision,
1 29 "cistern" means an artificial reservoir constructed
1 30 underground for the purpose of storing rainwater.

EXPLANATION

1 31 This bill changes an allocation from the agriculture
1 32 management account of the groundwater protection fund under
1 33 section 455E.11 to the department of natural resources for the
1 34 purpose of providing grants to counties and conducting
2 1 oversight of county-based programs for the testing of private
2 2 rural water supply wells and the proper closure of private
2 3 rural abandoned wells and cisterns by allowing for moneys to
2 4 be spent on private rural water supply well sealing. Current
2 5 law allocates two percent of any moneys remaining in the
2 6 agricultural management account after other allocations are
2 7 made for administering grants to counties for private water
2 8 supply wells and closure of private abandoned wells and for
2 9 county oversight. Current law designates that not more than
2 10 17.5 percent of the moneys may be used for private rural water
2 11 supply testing and not more than 17.5 percent of the moneys
2 12 may be used for properly closing abandoned rural water supply
2 13 wells and cisterns. This bill does not provide for additional
2 14 moneys but removes the 17.5 percent limitations and replaces
2 15 them with a limitation that not more than 35 percent of the
2 16 moneys be allocated for any of the purposes.

2 17 A county applying for a grant is required to submit only
2 18 one application. To be eligible for a grant, a county must
2 19 have adopted standards for private water supply and private
2 20 disposal facilities at least as stringent as the standards
2 21 adopted by the commission. During each fiscal year, the

2 22 amount granted each eligible applicant county is the total
2 23 funds available divided by the number of eligible counties
2 24 applying. Upon receipt of the grant, the county may apply the
2 25 funds to any one or more of the above three programs.
2 26 The bill does not change a current provision that not more
2 27 than six percent of the moneys is appropriated annually to the
2 28 state hygienic laboratory to assist in well testing.
2 29 LSB 2075HC 76
2 30 js/sc/14