

House File 311 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 311

BY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 72)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to water quality.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 455B.103A, subsection 1, paragraph b,
2 Code 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. Following the effective date of a general permit, a
4 person proposing to conduct activities covered by the general
5 permit shall provide a notice of intent to conduct a covered
6 activity on a form provided by the department. A person shall
7 also provide public notice of intent to conduct activities
8 other than storm water and allowable nonstorm water discharges
9 covered under the general permit by publishing notice in two
10 newspapers with the largest circulation in the area in which
11 the facility is located. Notice of the discontinuation of
12 a permitted activity other than storm water and allowable
13 nonstorm water discharges shall be provided in the same manner.

14 Sec. 2. Section 455B.186, Code 2013, is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 **455B.186 Prohibited actions.**

17 1. A pollutant shall not be disposed of by dumping,
18 depositing, or discharging such pollutant into any water of
19 the state, except that this section shall not be construed to
20 prohibit the discharge of adequately treated sewage, industrial
21 waste, or other waste ~~pursuant to a permit issued by the~~
22 ~~director~~ in accordance with rules adopted by the commission. A
23 pollutant whether treated or untreated shall not be discharged
24 into any state-owned natural or artificial lake except as
25 authorized in subsection 2.

26 2. A Subsection 1 shall not be construed to prohibit the use
27 or application of a pesticide in accordance with the federal
28 Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, 7 U.S.C. § 136
29 et seq. However, an aquatic pesticide shall not be applied
30 to any water of this state which has been classified by the
31 department as a class "A" or class "C", high quality, or high
32 quality resource water, except that this section shall not be
33 construed to prohibit the application of such a pesticide by a
34 certified applicator who is trained in aquatic applications and
35 who has received a permit from the department the United States

1 except as authorized in accordance with rules adopted by the
2 commission.

3 Sec. 3. Section 455B.265, subsection 1, Code 2013, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 1. In its consideration of applications for permits, the
6 department shall give priority in processing to persons in the
7 order that the applications are received, except where the
8 application of this processing priority system prevents the
9 prompt approval of routine applications or where the public
10 health, safety, or welfare will be threatened by delay. If the
11 department determines after investigation that the diversion,
12 storage, or withdrawal is consistent with the principles and
13 policies of beneficial use and ensuring conservation, the
14 department shall grant a permit. An application for a permit
15 shall be approved or denied within ninety days from the date
16 that the department receives the complete application. A
17 renewal permit shall be approved or denied by the department
18 within thirty days from the date that the department receives
19 an a complete application for renewal. If the applicant
20 requests an extension of the time allotted, the department
21 may approve the request to allow the applicant more time to
22 submit additional information to resolve a contested or complex
23 application. Regardless of the request in the application, and
24 subject to appeal, the director or the department ~~on appeal~~
25 may determine the duration and frequency of withdrawal and the
26 quantity of water to be diverted, stored, or withdrawn pursuant
27 to the permit. Each permit granted after July 1, 1986, shall
28 include conditions requiring routine conservation practices,
29 and requiring implementation of emergency conservation measures
30 after notification by the department.

31 Sec. 4. Section 466.8, Code 2013, is amended to read as
32 follows:

33 **466.8 On-site wastewater systems assistance program.**

34 1. The department of natural resources shall establish an
35 on-site wastewater systems assistance program for the purpose

1 of providing low-interest loans to homeowners ~~residing outside~~
2 ~~the boundaries of a city~~ for improving on-site wastewater
3 disposal systems.

4 ~~1.~~ 2. The environmental protection commission shall adopt
5 rules for carrying out the program including but not limited
6 to criteria for homeowner participation, the methods used to
7 provide loans, and financing terms and limits.

8 ~~2.~~ 3. The department may make and execute agreements with
9 public or private entities, including lending institutions
10 as defined in section 12.32, as required to administer the
11 program.

12 ~~3.~~ 4. Assistance provided to homeowners shall not be used
13 to pay the nonfederal share of the cost of any wastewater
14 system projects receiving grants under the federal Clean Water
15 Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1381 - 1387.

16 ~~4. The department shall report to the general assembly~~
17 ~~annually on the progress of the on-site wastewater systems~~
18 ~~assistance program.~~

19 Sec. 5. Section 466.9, subsection 3, paragraph a,
20 subparagraph (1), Code 2013, is amended to read as follows:

21 (1) The financing account which shall be used for the
22 exclusive purpose of providing financing to homeowners ~~residing~~
23 ~~outside the boundaries of a city~~ with improving on-site
24 wastewater systems under the on-site wastewater systems
25 assistance program.

26 EXPLANATION

27 This bill relates to water quality.

28 Currently, there are public notice requirements for the
29 intent to conduct or discontinue permitted activity under
30 certain general permits issued pursuant to Code chapter 455B,
31 459, 459A, or 459B relating to storm water discharge or an air
32 contaminant source. The notice must be given in two newspapers
33 with the largest circulation in the area in which the permitted
34 facility is located. The bill provides that storm water and
35 allowable nonstorm water discharges are not activities that

1 would require such notice.

2 The bill allows aquatic pesticides to be applied to waters
3 of the United States in accordance with rules adopted by the
4 environmental protection commission.

5 The bill allows an applicant for a permit for diversion,
6 storage, or withdrawal of water to receive a time extension
7 in the permitting process to provide the applicant with more
8 time to submit additional information to resolve a contested
9 or complex application.

10 Currently, a borrower under the on-site wastewater systems
11 assistance program must reside outside the boundaries
12 of a city. The bill eliminates the residential location
13 requirement. The bill also eliminates an annual reporting
14 requirement for the department under the program.