



Introduced Version

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Legislative Council to direct the Environmental Quality Service Council to study water/wastewater infrastructure funding solutions.

Gard

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

20082313

2008

SR 2513/DI 84+



SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Legislative Council to direct the Environmental Quality Service Council to study water/wastewater infrastructure funding solutions.

Whereas, Indiana's future will be dependent on adequate infrastructure to foster economic development, improve the environment, and enhance the quality of life for Hoosiers;

Whereas, Now that Indiana has addressed the long-term, adequate, and stable funding of its state highways, it is time to turn attention to the funding requirements of water and wastewater systems, since those types of infrastructure are also essential for Indiana's prosperity but severely lack funding throughout Indiana;

Whereas, Indiana's water and wastewater infrastructure needs nearly \$20 billion in improvements over the next 20 years, \$1 billion per year based on a 2003 report commissioned for the state and adjusted for inflation;

Whereas, All 92 counties in Indiana need some form of water/sewer improvements;

Whereas, In real dollar terms, our country's investment in water infrastructure is approximately 30 percent less than it was 40 years ago;

Whereas, All water and wastewater infrastructure



systems are aging and many are deteriorating; in less than 10 years, water quality may erode to conditions that existed before the Clean Water Act was passed in the 1970s if water and wastewater infrastructure is not repaired or improved;

Whereas, Indiana was the last state to outlaw the construction of combined sewers (storm water and wastewater in one system), and approximately 150 billion gallons of sewage is discharged each year from Indiana combined sewer systems and approximately 20 percent of the nation's combined sewer overflow (CSO) volume each year occurs in Indiana;

Whereas, Failing septic systems cause health and environmental problems, and Indiana has one of the highest percentages of septic system use in the nation;

Whereas, Federal funding of clean water treatment plants for local government is projected to be eliminated by 2011, and the low-interest loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) that are today's primary source of federal support have been slashed dramatically over the last 30 years, leaving communities with few options;

Whereas, Water and wastewater infrastructure repairs will cost every household in Indiana an additional \$400 per year for the next 20 years since many communities lack the capacity to raise rates high enough to match the cost of these repairs and improvements; and

Whereas, Economic development is increasingly impeded by the magnitude of Indiana's CSO issues: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. That the Legislative Council is urged to direct the
2 Environmental Quality Service Council to begin work on this vital
3 issue and find funding solutions for the good of the state, its citizens,
4 and its businesses.

