

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 660 (SB 48)

2022 Regular Session

Reese

Existing law (R.S. 39:100.56) creates the Water Sector Program to provide grants for repairs, improvements, and consolidation of community water and sewer systems. Establishes the Water Sector Commission to review and approve applications submitted pursuant to the program and make recommendations to Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) for approval of funding.

New law retains existing law.

Prior law required the commission to hold its first meeting no later than June 30, 2021, and issue directives to the division to utilize in the development of the guidance at its first meeting.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law required the division to promulgate guidance for the administration of the program, including application requirements, deadlines for application submissions and approval, criteria for ratings, and a process and prioritizing critical infrastructure needs.

New law adds application period dates to the guidance requirements and adds that a purpose of the guidance is to provide a process for ensuring funding for small water and sewer systems. Otherwise retains prior law.

New law requires the division to conduct outreach and educational efforts for all water and sewer systems to raise awareness regarding the program.

New law requires the division to post on its website a copy of the guidance as well as any additional information regarding the program, including the application process, procurement, or scoring criteria upon request of the commission.

Prior law required the division to submit the proposed guidance and a proposal outlining administrative costs for the program to the commission for review and approval no later than July 15, 2021.

New law retains prior law but removes the July 15, 2021, deadline.

Prior law required the division to begin accepting applications no later than August 1, 2021.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law required the division to submit the working panel's ratings and recommendations for funding to the commission within 45 days of the end of the application period.

New law retains prior law but removes the 45-day deadline.

Prior law required that applications include a certification from water system operators that funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was being used as match or an explanation that precluded the use of those funds as match.

New law repeals prior law.

Existing law requires the commission to review the ratings and recommendations submitted by the working panel and to submit its recommendations for grant awards to JLCB. Requires the recommendations to include proposed matching funds, unless the commission recommends a waiver of matching funds or decreased match for any project.

New law retains existing law.

Prior law required JLCB to review the recommendations submitted by the commission and approve funding for projects. New law retains prior law but adds an exception authorizing

the commission to approve adjustments to a grant award without JLCB approval for any of the following reasons:

- (1) Duplication of benefits.
- (2) Increase in project costs, not to exceed five percent of the total grant award for a project.
- (3) The inability of a grant recipient to complete one or more projects within the scope of the grant award.
- (4) Technical corrections.

Existing law requires the division to submit a quarterly construction progress report to JLCB for projects that receive funding approval.

New law retains existing law but adds that the recommendations to the JLCB shall include funding for small water and sewer systems as provided for in the guidance.

New law requires the division to submit a quarterly status update, including a construction progress report, to the commission and JLCB for projects that receive funding approval.

New law authorizes the commission to rescind any grant award if the grant recipient fails to comply with the guidance approved by the commission.

Prior law required projects included in the Capital Outlay Act to receive priority for funding and exempted those entities from submitting an additional application to be considered for a grant.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law authorized the commission to make recommendations to the commissioner of administration regarding lines of credit on capital outlay projects.

New law repeals prior law.

Effective June 18, 2022.

(Amends R.S. 39:100.56(C), (D), (E), (H)(intro para), and (I) through (L); repeals R.S. 39:100.56(H)(5), (O), and (P))