

HB 2248 -- SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

SPONSOR: Miller

This bill changes the process for a governing body of a county to request to change Solid Waste Management Districts. Beginning August 28, 2020, after public notice and comment and within 90 days of submission of an application, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must authorize a change if the county demonstrates the change will not negatively affect the region it is joining.

Currently, a district must submit a solid waste management plan to the DNR with specific information every 24 months. The bill changes the submission of the plan from mandatory to voluntary and changes the information required in the plan. If a district submits a plan, it must review the plan every 36 months.

Beginning January 1, 2021, the bill increases the fee that a solid waste sanitary landfill must collect from \$1.50 per ton to \$3 per ton, the fee a solid waste demolition landfill must collect from \$1 per ton to \$3 per ton, and the fee a person who operates a transfer station must transmit to the department from \$1.50 per ton to \$3 per ton. Beginning October 1, 2040, the money in the Solid Waste Management Fund can not exceed the amount required to fund the operation of DNR's Solid Waste Management Program.

For all fiscal years beginning July 1, 2021 and ending on or before June 30, 2031, \$4 million from the Solid Waste Management Fund must be made available to the Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority for its current activities that promote the development of markets for recovered materials. On June 30, 2031, the remaining balance of uncommitted moneys appropriated to the authority will be transferred to the "Landfill Remedial Fund", which is created in this section, to address the proper closure of abandoned landfills and the maintenance of closed and abandoned landfills.

For all fiscal years beginning July 1, 2021 and ending on or before June 30, 2031, \$4 million from the Solid Waste Management Fund must be transferred to the Landfill Remedial Fund to promote the proper cleanup, closure, and the maintenance of abandoned or underfunded closed landfills. The DNR must establish a procedure to measure the effectiveness of the program and provide a report to the Governor and General Assembly by January 15 of each year.

On June 30, 2040, the remaining balance of uncommitted moneys transferred to the Landfill Remedial Fund will be transferred back to the Solid Waste Management Fund and the Landfill Remedial Fund will be terminated.

Currently, each Solid Waste Management District receives a minimum of \$75,000 for district grants and operations. This bill removes the minimum amount a district must receive, but specifies that no district may receive more than \$3.5 million in one year.