

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

wastewater to a publicly owned treatment works and falls within the bill's PFAS-related categories. As a result, this work is entirely new and cannot be absorbed within existing monitoring or enforcement capacity.

As currently established, VPDES Permit Regulation defines industrial wastewater as wastewater generated in a commercial or industrial process. Under the bill, PFAS monitoring requirements are triggered by industrial activity type and discharge to a sewer system, rather than by existing permit status. DEQ states that because publicly owned treatment works serve broad commercial and industrial communities, the potentially affected universe is large and indeterminate and may include up to tens of thousands of facilities statewide, depending on how publicly owned treatment works identify qualifying industrial users. These are facilities not currently tracked or regulated by DEQ.

Ongoing general fund expenditures estimated by DEQ reflect nine positions, anticipated to cost \$1.1 million annually. Staffing impacts include three central office positions responsible for developing and overseeing statewide PFAS monitoring procedures, coordinating implementation across regions, managing enforcement consistency, and administering PFAS data collection, reporting, and analytics. Six regional positions would work directly with publicly owned treatment works and associated collection systems to identify qualifying industrial users, coordinate required notifications, support implementation of monitoring requirements, and conduct ongoing compliance follow up. DEQ states that although workload is expected to be highest in the first year due to initial identification and setup activities, the bill permanently expands the regulated population, with staff shifting thereafter to ongoing compliance oversight, data management, and enforcement.

Finally, DEQ estimates \$500,000 in first year costs to expand existing data repositories or develop new systems capable of receiving, storing, and analyzing PFAS monitoring data submitted by publicly owned treatment works.

Other: This bill is the companion to SB138S1.