

FISCAL NOTE

June 25, 2019

Bill No:	HB 707	Printer's No:	732	Sponsor:	Zimmerman (R)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2018-19	2019-20
General Fund	See "FISCAL IMPACT"	\$24 million

SUMMARY: HB 707 amends the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to exempt religiously owned facilities from regulations on public water systems.

ANALYSIS: HB 707 amends SDWA to change the definition of Public Water System. Under the new definition, the term does not include any facility owned by any religious institution which qualifies as a 501(c)(3) or a 501(d).

HB 707 takes effect 60 days after passage.

FISCAL IMPACT: Because HB 707 would render SDWA less stringent than the Federal Drinking Water Act, the commonwealth would lose the ability to be the primary enforcer of the safe drinking water program. This would lead the Environmental Protection Agency to withhold federal funds in order to enforce the program through EPA Region III. This includes \$4 million in annual lost funds from the Public Water System Supervision Fund and \$20 million in annual lost funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, for a total of \$24 million in forgone annual funding.