

HOUSE BILL 584

Introduced by Brooke

2/10	Introduced
2/10	Referred to Local Government
2/10	First Reading
2/16	Hearing
2/17	Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended
2/17	Placed on Consent Calendar
2/19	3rd Reading Passed
	Transmitted to Senate
2/22	First Reading
2/22	Referred to Local Government
3/18	Hearing
3/26	Tabled in Committee

1 House BILL NO. 584
2 INTRODUCED BY Brault
3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXTENDING THE TIME
5 PERIOD IN WHICH A PERSON MAY PROTEST AGAINST A PROPOSED
6 WATER QUALITY DISTRICT AND THE FEES PROPOSED TO BE CHARGED;
7 REQUIRING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A LOCAL WATER QUALITY
8 DISTRICT TO FILE AN ANNUAL REPORT; REQUIRING COUNTY
9 COMMISSIONERS TO REVIEW AND SOLICIT PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE
10 BOARD'S ANNUAL REPORT; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 7-13-4509,
11 7-13-4517, AND 7-13-4518, MCA."
12
13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
14 **Section 1.** Section 7-13-4509, MCA, is amended to read:
15 "7-13-4509. Right to protest -- procedure. (1) At any
16 time within 30 60 days after the date of the first
17 publication of the notice provided for in 7-13-4507(1), a
18 person owning a fee-assessed unit located within the
19 proposed local water quality district may make written
20 protest against the proposed district and the fees proposed
21 to be charged.
22 (2) The protest must be in writing and must be
23 delivered to the county clerk, who shall endorse on it the
24 date the protest is received.
25 (3) Owners may file one protest per fee-assessed unit."

1 **Section 2.** Section 7-13-4517, MCA, is amended to read:
2 "7-13-4517. Powers and duties of board of directors.
3 (1) The board of directors of a local water quality
4 district, with the approval of the commissioners, may:
5 (1)(a) develop a local water quality program, to be
6 submitted to the board of health and environmental sciences,
7 for the protection, preservation, and improvement of the
8 quality of surface water and ground water in the district.
9 In developing the program, the board of directors shall
10 consult with the board or boards of supervisors of
11 conservation districts, established as provided in
12 76-15-201, whose geographical area of jurisdiction is
13 included within the boundaries of the local water quality
14 district.
15 (2)(b) implement a local water quality program;
16 (3)(c) administer the budget of the local water quality
17 district;
18 (4)(d) employ personnel;
19 (5)(e) purchase, rent, or lease equipment and material
20 necessary to develop and implement an effective program;
21 (6)(f) cooperate or contract with any corporation,
22 association, individual, or group of individuals, including
23 any agency of the federal, state, or local governments, in
24 order to develop and implement an effective program;
25 (7)(g) receive gifts, grants, or donations for the

purpose of advancing the program and acquire by gift, deed, or purchase, land necessary to implement the local water quality program;

(h) administer local ordinances that are adopted by the commissioners and governing bodies of the participating cities and towns and that pertain to the protection, preservation, and improvement of the quality of surface water and ground water;

(i) apply for and receive from the federal government or the state government, on behalf of the local water quality district, money to aid the local water quality program;

(j) borrow money for assistance in planning or refinancing a local water quality district and repay loans with the money received from the established fees; and

(k) construct facilities that cost not more than \$5,000 and maintain facilities necessary to accomplish the purposes of the district, including but not limited to facilities for removal of water-borne contaminants; water quality improvement; sanitary sewage collection, disposal, and treatment; and storm water or surface water drainage collection, disposal, and treatment.

(2) The board of directors of a local water quality district shall:

(a) file with the commissioners by March 11 each year a

report showing the assets and liabilities of the district, the amount of money received during the preceding year, and an itemized accounting of the amount of money spent during that time; and

(b) publish the report at least once in a newspaper of the county or, in the case of a joint water quality district, in newspapers of the counties."

Section 3. Section 7-13-4518, MCA, is amended to read:

"7-13-4518. Powers and duties of commissioners. (1) In addition to the other powers and duties of the commissioners authorized by this part, the commissioners may:

(a) adopt local ordinances in accordance with the requirements of 75-5-311;

(b) establish fees;

(c) review and approve the annual budget of the local water quality district; and

(d) approve the construction of facilities that cost more than \$5,000 but not more than \$100,000 a year and that are necessary to accomplish the purposes of this part, including but not limited to facilities for removal of water-borne contaminants; water quality improvement; sanitary sewage collection, disposal, and treatment; and storm water or surface water drainage collection, disposal, and treatment.

(2) The commissioners shall review and solicit public

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1 comment on the annual report submitted to the commissioners
2 by the board of directors of a local water quality district
3 as required under 7-13-4517."

-End-