

## H.446 – Septage Fees

Joint Fiscal Office, April 9, 2021

House Ways and Means Committee

Language change in H.446, sec. 17 - 3 VSA §2822(j)(33)

Current Fee - \$10 per 1,000 gallons when a septic system is pumped. Tank capacities rounded to nearest 1,000 gallons for application of fee.

Fee Revenues:

FY19 Actuals    \$353,706

FY20 Actuals    \$434,079

FY21 Est.        \$350,000

Proposed Fee - \$0.01 per gallon when a septic system is pumped

This would reduce complexity of current fee, per Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Fee structure changes but amount of fee does not change. Any changes to overall revenues estimated to be de minimus.

*Ex. Dan has his 1,000-gallon septic tank pumped and would pay \$10 under current law (\$10 on 1,000 gallon tank) and \$10 under the H.446 proposal (\$0.01 x 1,000 gallons). Under current law, if tank was 1,200 gallons then fee would still be \$10 but if it was 1,500 then fee would be \$20, due to rounding to nearest 1,000 gallons. New law would allow for fee to be applied more precisely.*

One unknown:

DEC originally proposed different language in a presentation to the House Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife committee on February 9, 2021.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/WorkGroups/House%20Natural/Bills/H.446/Witness%20Documents/W~Peter%20Walke~DR%202021-0956,%20Draft%201.1,%20DEC-NRB%20Proposed%20Technical%20Corrections~3-18-2021.pdf>

Language proposed in that presentation was “\$.01 per gallon of septage and portable toilet waste managed in Vermont.”

This was aimed at two noted issues:

1. Per DEC, it is unclear whether the current fee applies to out-of-state septage brought into VT for management or septage sent out-of-state from VT for management. DEC noted that they currently apply the fee to both.
2. Per DEC, it is unclear whether current fee can be assessed on portable toilet waste. DEC does not currently apply the fee to portable toilet waste. If DEC were to pursue assessing the fee on this waste, which may be more feasible with a fee applied on a “per gallon” basis, then revenues would increase but the impact is unknown.