

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION
MINUTES: April 7, 2008

LEGISLATION

MEMBERS:

Chair: Burton; Legislators: Harckham, Myers, Bronz, Jenkins, Maisano, Nonna, Rogowsky, Abinanti

IN ATTENDANCE:

CE: B. Randolph, A. Neuman, S. Gerry; **CA:** L. Cipollo, M. Gleeson, L. Trentacoste; **WCDEF:** T. Lauro, M. Parise, J. Arnett; **BOL:** S. Bass;
GUESTS: A. Prestano, M. Oxman, L. Vetrone

With a quorum present, the Committee on Legislation was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

(Maisano, Harckham) Move to approve the minutes of February 11, 2008. Motion approved 5-0.

REMOVAL AND INSPECTION OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

(Myers, Jenkins) move for public hearing only a local law to establish a program to reimburse owners of certain parcels for costs associated with routine septage removal and inspection services relative to separate sewage disposal systems.

Tom Lauro, the Commissioner of Environmental Facilities, Associate County Attorney Marty Gleeson, Second Deputy Commissioner of Department Environmental Facilities Jim Arnett and Sue Gerry representative of the County Executive's Office all spoke to the committee about the benefits of the proposed legislation. The purpose of the measure is to reimburse people who are in the sewer districts who have onsite septic systems who pay sewer district taxes but are not connected to the sewers. This will reimburse those residents every three years. The legislation sunsets in six years. It will reimburse for two pump-outs and one inspection over the six year period. This will help with the maintenance and any problems that may come up with the septic system. It is a benefit to the water quality and the home owner who could then improve property values. It is a way of giving back something to those homeowners who have been paying sewer taxes and not getting anything for it. The ultimate goal is to have the residents in the sewer districts sewered.

The cost will be \$366,500 per year which will total \$1,099,500 million dollars over 5 years and the last year will be \$733,000.

The program will be up and running in about 90 days. This will give time for the department to develop the necessary rules and regulations.

Motion approved 6-0.

SOURCE SEPERATION REQUIREMENTS FOR WASTE GENERATORS

(Nonna, Abinanti) Move for all purposes Source Separation Requirements for residential and nonresidential waste generators and penalties.

Commissioner Lauro and Ms. Gerry discussed the changes to the proposed legislation. The measure contains amendments to the current definition of residential recyclables to include more types of cardboard. All businesses will now be required to recycle glass, plastics additional cardboards and metals. This bill will also require nonresidential Waste Generators to provide updated recycling plans every three years and new entities to submit a plan within six months of entry into the community. The fine will be reduced from \$250 to \$100 which is more inline with the surrounding counties.

The committee also discussed a letter from the law firm of Snyder & Snyder who represents a group of private haulers that are licensed to collect refuse and recyclables in Westchester. Commissioner Lauro stated the biggest issue is single source or single stream recycling. The concern was if everything went into one bin would there be contamination. They went to inspect and analyze a source separation facility. The MURF is a two stream facility. There are no issues of the quality of the recyclables.

Legislator Abinanti mentioned there was also a provision added to criminalize the theft of recyclables.

Motion approved 6-0.

(Jenkins, Myers) move to adjourn the Committee on Legislation. Motion approved 6-0. Committee on Legislation adjourned at 4:03 P.M.

AUDIO RECORDING ON FILE FOR REVIEW UPON REQUEST