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Senators B.Smith and Bateman

SYNOPSIS
Requires NJ Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program to give additional weight in ranking system to projects including green or blue roof.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.
AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program and amending P.L.1985, c.334.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. Section 20 of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-20) is amended to read as follows:

   20. a. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall for each fiscal year develop a priority system for wastewater treatment systems and shall establish the ranking criteria and funding policies for the projects therefor. The commissioner shall set forth a project priority list for funding by the trust for each fiscal year and shall include the aggregate amount of funds of the trust to be authorized for these purposes. The project priority list may include any stormwater management or combined sewer overflow abatement project identified in the stormwater management and combined sewer overflow abatement project priority list adopted by the commissioner pursuant to section 28 of P.L.1989, c.181.

   b. The Senate Environment Committee and the General Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee shall, either

   EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

   Matter underlined thus is new matter.
individually or jointly, consider the legislation containing the project priority list, and shall report the legislation, together with any modifications, out of committee for consideration by each House of the Legislature. On or before July 1 of each year, the Legislature shall approve an appropriations act containing the project priority list, including any amendatory or supplementary provisions thereto, which act shall include the authorization of an aggregate amount of funds of the trust to be expended for loans and guarantees for the specific projects, including the individual amounts therefor, on the list.

c. The trust shall not expend any money for a loan or guarantee during a fiscal year for any wastewater treatment system project unless the expenditure is authorized pursuant to an appropriations act as provided in the provisions of this section, or as otherwise set forth in an appropriations act.

d. In developing the project priority list required pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the commissioner shall provide additional points, as part of the department’s ranking criteria, for projects that include the construction and maintenance of a green roof or blue roof to reduce stormwater runoff in the project design.

As used in this section:
“Blue roof” means a roof constructed with mechanical controls that drain stormwater, including but not limited to gravel beds, perforated pipes, rooftop detention systems, or weirs, designed to improve stormwater management.

“Green roof” means a roof that includes, among other things, a growth medium and a vegetation layer of drought resistant and hardy plant species, designed to improve stormwater management.

(cf: P.L.2009, c.59, s.3)

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill requires the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, when ranking eligible projects for funding from the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program, to provide additional points, as part of the ranking criteria, for projects that include the construction and maintenance of a green roof or blue roof to reduce stormwater runoff in the project design.

Green roofs and blue roofs, which use vegetation or mechanical devices, respectively, to prevent roof water from draining too quickly, not only improve stormwater management but also provide cost savings opportunities, such as more efficient energy usage for heating and cooling. The current priority system used for ranking projects eligible for funding from the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program provides additional points to
clean water projects whose primary purpose is to implement green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, including projects designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This bill provides that projects that include the construction and maintenance of a green or blue roof would receive additional weight in the ranking system to assist these projects in ranking higher on the project list, since the program’s funding is limited and the application process is competitive.