



# Ohio Senate Bill 110

(As Passed by the Senate)

## Household Sewage Treatment

Sponsored by Senator Tom Niehaus



## Support

### Summary




- Requires the Public Health Council to adopt new rules governing sewage treatment systems.
- Specifies that the rules must require boards of health to approve or disapprove the installation, operation, or alteration of sewage treatment systems, and establishes new requirements for alteration permits as well as installation and operation permits.
- Requires rules governing the siting, design, installation, operation, monitoring, maintenance, and abandonment of sewage treatment systems that are required to be adopted under current law to also address the progressive and incremental alteration or repair of an existing system and the progressive or incremental installation of a new system to replace an existing system.
- Requires rules governing the siting, design, installation, operation, monitoring, maintenance, and abandonment of sewage treatment systems that are required to be adopted under current law to be adopted so as to establish a preference for the repair of an existing sewage treatment system, when technically and economically feasible, rather than its replacement with a new system.




### OEC Perspective

FACT: An estimated one million Ohio homeowners live in areas not served by a public sewer system. FACT: The Ohio EPA's 1997 Comparative Risk Project report warned "...when an on-site system discharges improperly treated wastewater to a ditch or storm sewer, anyone who comes in contact with the water is at risk." FACT: According to the Comparative Risk Project, an estimated 27% of all existing on-site HSTS in Ohio were failing to adequately treat wastewater. The report warned that some 270,000 homes may be at risk due to inadequate on-site wastewater treatment. FACT: A 1990 OSU survey of county health sanitarians estimated that one out of every four HSTS in Ohio was failing. The OSU survey also identified that the use of another poorly-functioning system is widespread: aerobic wastewater treatment systems. The survey found that 78 out of 88 counties reported the use of such systems. FACT: National and Ohio studies have consistently show that only 16% to 50% of aerobic systems operate properly at any give time.

The OEC urges support for this compromise bill.

### Bill Ratings

-  This legislation will help resolve a serious problem that threatens Ohio's environment, and/or demonstrates significant leadership for Ohio's future.
-  This legislation will benefit Ohio's environment, or shows foresight in setting future environmental policy.
-  This legislation will somewhat - or on balance - benefit Ohio's environment.

-  This legislation will cause substantial harm to Ohio's environment, and demonstrates serious disregard for Ohio's future.
-  This legislation will harm Ohio's environment, or sets the state on the wrong path for future environmental policy.
-  This legislation will somewhat - or on balance - harm Ohio's environment.