



# **SENATOR JOHN PIPPY**

## **2007-2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

### **PRIME SPONSORED BILL SUMMARY**

## **SENATE BILL 176**

This act would authorize municipalities and municipal authorities to use public funds for the improvement, extension, repair or rehabilitation of private lateral sewer lines connected to public sewer lines if any of the following applies:

1. The use will benefit public health by preventing overflows and backups onto private property.
2. A public health or environmental agency has issued an order to reduce infiltration and inflow.
3. An engineering study has identified private laterals as significant contributors to wet weather overflow and sewer system capacity and the laterals are a cost effective component of the solution.

Nothing in this act would require the municipality or authority to take on any additional maintenance or ownership responsibilities of the lines unless they decide to do so.

This bill is designed to assist municipalities in complying with the EPA's regional consent decree for sewage and stormwater management. Municipalities and authorities are often prevented from making improvements to the combined system because many of the lines that are responsible for polluting stormwater runoff are privately owned. The high cost of repairing these lines discourages many homeowners from making the necessary investment. This bill will allow municipalities to absorb or share the cost and take additional steps toward compliance and safe water management practices.