



FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 284

Committee: State Governmental Affairs

Sponsor: Senator Clyde Chambliss

Analyst: JT Mathis

Date: 05/10/2023

Senate Bill 284 as introduced would establish a dam safety program within the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to provide loans for the alteration or repair of state-owned and certain privately owned dams and reservoirs. This bill would require ADEM to: 1) establish a Dam Rehabilitation Loan Program or partner with other public and private entities to create a revolving fund; 2) create a public repository for dam related documents such as inspections, emergency action plans, construction plans and maps; and 3) enforce loan contracts. Per ADEM, this will increase the department's administrative and financial obligations by an estimated \$200,000 annually to hire two full-time employees to administer the dam safety program.

This bill further provides for the dam safety program to be initially funded by the Legislature and subsequently funded by additional monies appropriated by the Legislature, payments of principal and interest collected by ADEM from the Dam Rehabilitation Loan Program, provided for by this bill, and monies directed to the program by the Legislature and for all remaining funds unexpended at the end of the fiscal year to be reappropriated to the program.

Additionally, this bill would increase the administrative obligations of the local and municipal governments that participate in the program by an undetermined amount to provide the necessary dam related documents to ADEM, and to have the dam or reservoir inspected a minimum of once every two years by a qualified engineer.