

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-XXXX**

**TITLE: Environmental Assessment and Study Enhancement (EASE) Act - 500 Codes**

**Revision**

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**SPONSOR(S):**

CHAPTER 595 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (83-166, 90-163)

595.1 The Student Senate, by majority vote, may request an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Study to be performed.

595.2 Responsibility for the production of these documents shall rest with the director of the project, agency, or organization seeking the funding, unless another person or committee is designated by the requesting body.

595.3 Environmental Assessment

1. An Environmental Assessment is a preliminary, informational document designed to provide enough data to make a knowledgeable, rational decision upon whether to require an Environmental Impact Statement or not.

2. It defines the purpose, timeframe, and scope of the assessment with designated goals, objectives, and plans of action.

3. It evaluates the potential environmental impacts of any alternative plan of action, considering direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on air quality, water resources, land use, biodiversity, cultural resources, and human health.

4. It assesses both positive and negative impacts through the identification of significant environmental effects that warrant further analysis or mitigation.

5. It ensures compliance with applicable environmental laws, regulations, and procedural requirements, including requirements for public participation, disclosure, and documentation, and adheres to established environmental review processes. P

~~2.~~ 6. It must be presented to the requesting governmental body within a reasonable time, and prior to a final vote of the requesting body concerning funding for the project.

#### 595.4 Environmental Impact Study

1. An Environmental Impact Study is a document containing pertinent information, reasonably researched, and relating to the physical environment directly impacted by a project funded by Student Senate.

2. An Environmental Study is required to discuss:

a. The environmental impact of the proposed action; and,

b. ~~Any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposed action be implemented;~~ Identification and discussion of any adverse environmental effects that cannot be fully mitigated if the proposed action is to be implemented; and,

c. Alternatives to the proposed action (~~this would include the alternative of not doing the project~~); which should include any

other feasible options, including the alternative of not proceeding with the project; and,

d. ~~The relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment and enhancement of long-term productivity;~~ Examine the relationship between short-term utilization of the environment and the long-term sustainability of natural resources; and,

e. Any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in their proposed action should it be implemented-; and,

f. If the action should be implemented, the Environmental Impact Study shall undergo periodic review and evaluation of its effectiveness.

3. At least one public hearing, notice of at least one week having been provided, must be held prior to completion of the Environmental Impact Study.

4. The Environmental Impact Study must be presented to and approved by a majority vote of the Student Senate, at least one week prior to opening the project for bids and prior to any construction contracts for the project are signed.

595.41 An Environmental Impact Study shall be limited in cost to a maximum of two per cent (2%) of the projected budget of the project. This limit may be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate, provided it is heard as a special funding request. 595.411 The budget for the Environmental Impact Study shall be

approved by the Student Senate in compliance with all applicable student body laws.