

**State of Rhode Island**  
**Department of Administration**  
**Office of Management and Budget**

Fiscal Note for Proposed Administrative Rules (R.I.G.L. § 22-12-1.1)

**Name of Administrative Rule:** Water Quality Regulations 250-RICR-150-05-1

<b>FISCAL IMPACT</b>					
<b>State Revenues</b>		<b>State Expenditures</b>		<b>City/Town Expenditures</b>	
FY 2026	\$0	FY 2026	\$0	FY 2026	\$0
FY 2027	\$0	FY 2027	\$0	FY 2027	\$0
FY 2028	\$0	FY 2028	\$0	FY 2028	\$0

**Summary of Policy Change:** RIDEM is proposing to amend existing state Water Quality Regulations to adopt site specific metals criteria for specified segments as allowed in current regulation, clarify turbidity criteria, adopt EPA-recommended human health toxics criteria, change selected segment classifications to reflect already completed permit terminations, include Wild and Scenic Rivers as Special Resource Protection Waters (SRPWs) as already defined in the regulation, adopt two (2) new estuarine segments without changes to applicable criteria to better reflect current shellfish management, non-substantive typographical errors, and remove selected incorporated references by adopting the language into regulatory text.

**Summary of State Fiscal Impact:** No adverse fiscal impact. Existing RIDEM Office of Water Resources staff administer the application of the regulations for federal Clean Water Act purposes, including permitting implications. Other related programs, such as shellfishing and permitting requirements for SPRWs, are also currently administered by existing RIDEM Office of Water Resources staff.

**City or Town Impact:** No adverse municipal fiscal impacts. The proposed adoption of site-specific metals criteria was requested by municipal facilities as regulatory relief, and the new metals criteria will result in less stringent permit limits. The activities resulting from the adoption of site-specific metals criteria, like monitoring, data interpretation, are set in current permitting, and with the adoption of site-specific metals criteria, the treatment facilities are expected to avert future cost associated with treatment upgrades that would have been required. It is expected to avert \$1-20 million in future treatment facility upgrade costs. All other proposed regulatory amendments clarify or adopt regulatory text within current allowable regulatory authority or as recommended by EPA and are not expected incur municipal fiscal impacts.