

LRB – FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

ITEM 9, FILE 001785

APRIL 26, 2001

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File #001785 is a resolution relative to the application, acceptance and funding of the Beach Study Grant by the Health Department.

Background and Discussion

1. This resolution authorizes the Health Department to apply for, accept and fund the Beach Study Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources through the Racine Health Department. This is a new grant.
2. The purpose of this grant is to purchase computer software and laboratory supplies for the laboratory's bacterial typing equipment to assist in typing *E. coli* isolates and tracing their source. To type *E. coli* or other bacteria means to categorize them on the basis of their fatty acid profiles.
3. The department uses the membrane filtration technology and then test protocols for the detection and isolation of *E. coli*. Bacterial typing takes about 6 to 8 hours to run a batch of cultures. The system is about 10 years old and has limited functional capabilities.
4. The upgrading of existing software and hardware will be highly useful in the identification, characterization and tracing the source of bacterial contamination in different environments, food and water. It will enhance the department's capability to handle large volumes and perform complex analysis of data.
5. *E. coli* is commonly found in humans and therefore is used as an indicator of water pollution and disease risk for humans. The grant will type *E. coli* isolates from one or more beach sites and trace it to the source of contamination. Last year, the department ran approximately 500 cultures isolated from food, water or patients.

Fiscal Impact

1. The total from the Beach Study Grant is \$17,265 in funding, entirely by the grantor. There is no City in-kind share.
2. The grant period is from May 1, 2001 through April 30, 2002.

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