The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 276.

As reported, this bill allows county and municipal sewerage authorities, utilities authorities, and sewerage utilities, to reduce sewerage service rates for households with incomes at or below a certain percentage of the most recent federal poverty guidelines, as set by the authority or utility. The bill allows these authorities and utilities to provide affordable sewerage services for persons of limited means.

Current law allows these authorities and utilities to reduce or totally abate general sewerage service rates for persons who are 65 years of age or older or are disabled, and who also meet certain statutorily-based income requirements. This bill extends the option of providing reduced general sewerage service rates to all low-income persons based on eligibility requirements set by the authority or utility. These authorities and utilities are still permitted to reduce or abate general sewerage service rates for persons who are 65 years of age or older or are disabled as is provided under current law.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2018-2019 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.