102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB1574

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Robert F. Martwick

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

415 ILCS 5/57.5 415 ILCS 5/57.8 415 ILCS 5/57.9

Amends the Environmental Protection Act. Provides that for an underground storage tank release reported on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act, an owner or operator may access the Underground Storage Tank Fund for costs associated with an Environmental Protection Agency approved plan, and the Agency shall approve the payment of costs associated with corrective action without the application of a deductible, except a \$5,000 deductible shall apply to an owner or operator of an underground storage tank that is not registered under the Gasoline Storage Act. Makes changes, applicable to a release reported on or after the effective date, to provisions concerning payments from the Underground Storage Tank Fund for an application for payment from the Fund for an approved plan and budget for a tank that is registered under the Gasoline Storage Act. Provides that if a full payment is not made within specified periods for the applications for these registered tanks, then the Fund must pay the owner or operator 2% interest per month on any unpaid amount until the owner or operator is fully paid. Provides that if the balance in the Underground Storage Tank Fund falls below \$10,000,000 for a period of 6 months, then the 2% percent monthly interest payments shall be suspended until the Fund balance is above \$10,000,000. Makes other changes. Effective January 1, 2022.

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FISCAL NOTE ACT MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning safety.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Environmental Protection Act is amended by 5 changing Sections 57.5, 57.8, and 57.9 as follows:

6 (415 ILCS 5/57.5)

Sec. 57.5. Underground Storage Tanks; removal; repair;
abandonment.

9 Notwithstanding the eligibility or the level of (a) deductibility of an owner or operator under the Underground 10 Storage Tank Fund, any owner or operator of an Underground 11 Storage Tank may seek to remove or abandon such tank under the 12 provisions of this Title. In order to be reimbursed under 13 14 Section 57.8, the owner or operator must comply with the provisions of this Title. Except for interest accrued under 15 16 paragraph (2.5) of subsection (a) of Section 57.8, in In no event will an owner or operator be reimbursed for any costs 17 which exceed the minimum requirements necessary to comply with 18 19 this Title.

(b) Removal or abandonment of an Underground Storage Tank must be carried out in accordance with regulations adopted by the Office of State Fire Marshal.

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(c) The Office of the State Fire Marshal or a designated

agent shall have an inspector on site at the time of removal, 1 2 abandonment, or such other times the Office of State Fire 3 Marshal deems appropriate. At such time, the inspector shall, upon preliminary excavation of the tank site, render an 4 5 opinion as to whether a release of petroleum has occurred and, 6 if so, the owner or operator shall report the known or 7 suspected release to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. 8 The owner or operator shall determine whether or not a release 9 has occurred in conformance with the regulations adopted by 10 the Board and the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Except that 11 if the opinion of the Office of the State Fire Marshal 12 inspector is that a release of petroleum has occurred and the 13 owner or operator has reported the release to the Illinois 14 Emergency Management Agency within 24 hours of removal of the 15 tank, no such determination is required under this subsection. 16 In the event the owner or operator confirms the presence of a 17 release of petroleum, the owner or operator shall comply with Section 57.6. The inspector shall provide the owner or 18 19 operator, or a designated agent, with an "Eligibility and Deductibility Determination" form. The Office of the State 20 Fire Marshal shall provide on-site assistance to the owner or 21 22 operator or a designated agent with regard to the eligibility 23 and deductibility procedures as provided in Section 57.9. If the Office of the State Fire Marshal is not on site, the Office 24 of the State Fire Marshal shall provide the owner or operator 25 26 with an "Eligibility and Deductibility Determination" form - 3 - LRB102 15260 CPF 20615 b

within 15 days after receiving notice that the confirmed
 release was reported by the owner or operator.

3 (d) In the event that a release of petroleum is confirmed 4 under subsection (c) of this Section, the owner or operator 5 may elect to backfill the preliminary excavation and proceed 6 under Section 57.6.

7 (e) In the event that an Underground Storage Tank is found 8 to be ineligible for payment from the Underground Storage Tank 9 Fund, the owner or operator shall proceed under Sections 57.6 10 and 57.7.

11 (f) In the event that no release of petroleum is 12 confirmed, the owner or operator shall proceed to complete the removal of the underground storage tank, and when appropriate, 13 14 dispose of the tank and backfill the excavation or, in the 15 alternate, abandon the underground storage tank in place. 16 Either option shall be in accordance with regulations adopted 17 by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The owner or operator shall certify to the Office of the State Fire Marshal that the 18 19 tank removal or abandonment was conducted in accordance with 20 all applicable rules and regulations, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal shall then issue a certificate of removal 21 22 or abandonment to the owner or operator. If the Office of the 23 State Fire Marshal fails to issue a certificate of removal or abandonment within 30 days of receipt of the certification, 24 25 the certification shall be considered rejected by operation of 26 law and a final action appealable to the Board. Nothing in this

Title shall prohibit the Office of the State Fire Marshal from
 making an independent inspection of the site and challenging
 the veracity of the owner or operator certification.

(q) The owner or operator of an underground storage tank 4 5 taken out of operation before January 2, 1974, or an underground storage tank used exclusively to store heating oil 6 7 for consumptive use on the premises where stored and which 8 serves other than a farm or residential unit shall not be 9 required to remove or abandon in place such underground 10 storage tank except in the case in which the Office of the 11 State Fire Marshal has determined that a release from the 12 underground storage tank poses a current or potential threat to human health and the environment. In that case, and upon 13 receipt of an order from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, 14 15 the owner or operator of such underground storage tank shall 16 conduct removal and, if necessary, site investigation and 17 action in accordance with this Title corrective and regulations promulgated by the Office of State Fire Marshal 18 19 and the Board.

(h) In the event that a release of petroleum occurred between September 13, 1993, and August 1, 1994, for which the Office of the State Fire Marshal issued a certificate of removal or abandonment based on its determination of "no release" or "minor release," and the Office of the State Fire Marshal subsequently has rescinded that determination and required a report of a confirmed release to the Illinois

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Emergency Management Agency, the owner or operator may be 1 2 eligible for reimbursement for the costs of site investigation and corrective action incurred on or after the date of the 3 release but prior to the notification of the Illinois 4 5 Emergency Management Agency. The date of the release shall be the date of the initial inspection by the Office of the State 6 7 Fire Marshal as recorded in its inspection log. Eligibility 8 and deductibility shall be determined in accordance with this 9 Title, the owner or operator must comply with the provisions 10 of this Act and its rules, and in no case shall the owner or 11 operator be reimbursed for costs exceeding the minimum 12 requirements of this Act and its rules.

13 (Source: P.A. 92-554, eff. 6-24-02.)

14 (415 ILCS 5/57.8)

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15 Sec. 57.8. Underground Storage Tank Fund; payment; options 16 for State payment; deferred correction election to commence corrective action upon availability of funds. If an owner or 17 18 operator is eligible to access the Underground Storage Tank 19 Fund pursuant to an Office of State Fire Marshal 20 eligibility/deductible final determination letter issued in 21 accordance with Section 57.9, the owner or operator may submit 22 a complete application for final or partial payment to the 23 Agency for activities taken in response to a confirmed 24 release. An owner or operator may submit a request for partial 25 or final payment regarding a site no more frequently than once

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1 every 90 days.

2 Payment after completion of corrective action (a) 3 measures. The owner or operator may submit an application for payment for activities performed at a site after completion of 4 5 requirements of Sections 57.6 and 57.7, or after the 6 completion of any other required activities at the underground 7 storage tank site.

8 (1) <u>This paragraph applies to a release reported under</u>
 9 <u>Section 57.5 before the effective date of this amendatory</u>
 10 <u>Act of the 102nd General Assembly.</u>

11 In the case of any approved plan and budget for which 12 payment is being sought, the Agency shall make a payment 13 within 120 days of determination receipt of the 14 application. Such determination shall be considered a 15 final decision. The Agency's review shall be limited to 16 generally accepted auditing and accounting practices. In 17 no case shall the Agency conduct additional review of any plan which was completed within the budget, beyond 18 19 auditing for adherence to the corrective action measures 20 in the proposal. If the Agency fails to approve the payment application within 120 days, such application 21 22 shall be deemed approved by operation of law and the 23 Agency shall proceed to reimburse the owner or operator 24 the amount requested in the payment application. However, 25 in no event shall the Agency reimburse the owner or 26 operator an amount greater than the amount approved in the

plan.

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(2) <u>This paragraph applies to a release reported under</u>
<u>Section 57.5 before the effective date of this amendatory</u>
<u>Act of the 102nd General Assembly.</u> If sufficient funds are
available in the Underground Storage Tank Fund, the Agency
shall, within 60 days, forward to the Office of the State
Comptroller a voucher in the amount approved under the
payment application.

9 (2.5) This paragraph applies to a release reported 10 under Section 57.5 on or after the effective date of this 11 amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly.

12 In the case of an application for an approved plan 13 that is at or under a budget approved by the Agency for a 14 tank registered under the Gasoline Storage Act, the Agency 15 shall have 30 days from receipt of the application to make 16 a payment determination and, if sufficient funds are 17 available in the Underground Storage Tank Fund, to forward to the Office of the State Comptroller a voucher in the 18 19 amount approved under the payment application. The 20 determination shall be considered a final decision. The 21 Agency's review shall be limited to generally accepted 22 auditing and accounting practices. In no case shall the 23 Agency conduct additional review of any plan which was 24 completed within the budget, beyond auditing for adherence 25 to the corrective action measures in the proposal. If the 26 Agency fails to approve the payment application within 30

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1	days, then the application shall be deemed approved by
2	operation of law and the Agency shall proceed to reimburse
3	the owner or operator the amount requested in the payment
4	application. If a full payment is not made within 30 days
5	of receipt of the application, then the Fund must pay the
6	owner or operator 2% interest per month on any unpaid
7	amount until the owner or operator is fully paid.

8 In the case of an application for an approved plan 9 that is over a budget approved by the Agency for a tank 10 that is registered under the Gasoline Storage Act, the 11 Agency shall have 60 days from receipt of the application 12 to make a payment determination and, if sufficient funds are available in the Underground Storage Tank Fund, 30 13 14 days from the date of the payment determination to forward 15 to the Office of the State Comptroller a voucher in the 16 amount approved under the payment application. The determination shall be considered a final decision. The 17 Agency's review shall be limited to generally accepted 18 19 auditing and accounting practices. In no case shall the Agency conduct additional review of any plan which was 20 21 completed within the budget, beyond auditing for adherence 22 to the corrective action measures in the proposal. If the 23 Agency fails to approve the payment application within 60 24 days, then the application shall be deemed approved by 25 operation of law and the Agency shall proceed to reimburse 26 the owner or operator the amount requested in the payment

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1application. If a full payment is not made within 30 days2of the date that the voucher is forwarded to the3Comptroller, then the Fund must pay the owner or operator42% interest per month on any unpaid amount until the owner5or operator is fully paid.6Except for interest accrued under this paragraph, in

no event shall the Agency reimburse the owner or operator
 an amount greater than the amount approved in the plan.

9 If the balance in the Underground Storage Tank Fund 10 falls below \$10,000,000 for a period of 6 months, then the 11 2% percent monthly interest payments under this paragraph 12 shall be suspended until the Fund balance is above 13 \$10,000,000.

14 (3) In the case of insufficient funds, the Agency 15 shall form a priority list for payment and shall notify 16 persons in such priority list monthly of the availability 17 of funds and when payment shall be made. Payment shall be made to the owner or operator at such time as sufficient 18 funds become available for the costs associated with site 19 20 investigation and corrective action and costs expended for 21 activities performed where no proposal is required, if 22 applicable. Such priority list shall be available to any 23 owner or operator upon request. Priority for payment shall 24 be determined by the date the Agency receives a complete 25 request for partial or final payment. Upon receipt of 26 notification from the Agency that the requirements of this

1 Title have been met, the Comptroller shall make payment to 2 the owner or operator of the amount approved by the 3 Agency, if sufficient money exists in the Fund. If there is insufficient money in the Fund, then payment shall not 4 5 be made. If the owner or operator appeals a final Agency payment determination and it is determined that the owner 6 7 or operator is eligible for payment or additional payment, 8 the priority date for the payment or additional payment 9 shall be the same as the priority date assigned to the 10 original request for partial or final payment.

11 (4) Any deductible, as determined pursuant to the 12 Office of the State Fire Marshal's eligibility and 13 deductibility final determination in accordance with 14 Section 57.9, shall be subtracted from any payment invoice 15 paid to an eligible owner or operator. Only one deductible 16 shall apply per underground storage tank site.

(5) In the event that costs are or will be incurred in addition to those approved by the Agency, or after payment, the owner or operator may submit successive plans containing amended budgets. The requirements of Section 57.7 shall apply to any amended plans.

22 (6) For purposes of this Section, a complete23 application shall consist of:

(A) A certification from a Licensed Professional
 Engineer or Licensed Professional Geologist as
 required under this Title and acknowledged by the

1 owner or operator.

(B) A statement of the amounts approved in the budget and the amounts actually sought for payment along with a certified statement by the owner or operator that the amounts so sought were expended in conformance with the approved budget.

(C) A copy of the Office of the State Fire Marshal's eligibility and deductibility determination.

9 (D) Proof that approval of the payment requested 10 will not result in the limitations set forth in 11 subsection (g) of this Section being exceeded.

12 (E) A federal taxpayer identification number and
13 legal status disclosure certification on a form
14 prescribed and provided by the Agency.

15 (F) If the Agency determined under subsection 16 (c) (3) of Section 57.7 of this Act that corrective 17 action must include a project labor agreement, a certification from the owner or operator that the 18 19 corrective action was (i) performed under a project 20 labor agreement that meets the requirements of Section 21 25 of the Project Labor Agreements Act and (ii) 22 implemented in a manner consistent with the terms and 23 conditions of the Project Labor Agreements Act and in 24 full compliance with all statutes, regulations, and 25 Executive Orders as required under that Act and the 26 Prevailing Wage Act.

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Commencement of site investigation or corrective 1 (b) 2 action upon availability of funds. The Board shall adopt regulations setting forth procedures based on risk to human 3 health or the environment under which the owner or operator 4 5 who has received approval for any budget plan submitted pursuant to Section 57.7, and who is eligible for payment from 6 7 the Underground Storage Tank Fund pursuant to an Office of the 8 Fire Marshal eligibility and deductibility State 9 determination, may elect to defer site investigation or 10 corrective action activities until funds are available in an 11 amount equal to the amount approved in the budget. The 12 regulations shall establish criteria based on risk to human 13 health or the environment to be used for determining on a 14 site-by-site basis whether deferral is appropriate. The 15 regulations also shall establish the minimum investigatory 16 requirements for determining whether the risk based criteria 17 are present at a site considering deferral and procedures for the notification of owners or operators of insufficient funds, 18 Agency review of request for deferral, notification of Agency 19 20 final decisions, returning deferred sites to active status, 21 and earmarking of funds for payment.

(c) When the owner or operator requests indemnification for payment of costs incurred as a result of a release of petroleum from an underground storage tank, if the owner or operator has satisfied the requirements of subsection (a) of this Section, the Agency shall forward a copy of the request to

1 the Attorney General. The Attorney General shall review and 2 approve the request for indemnification if:

3 (1) there is a legally enforceable judgment entered 4 against the owner or operator and such judgment was 5 entered due to harm caused by a release of petroleum from 6 an underground storage tank and such judgment was not 7 entered as a result of fraud; or

8 (2) a settlement with a third party due to a release of
9 petroleum from an underground storage tank is reasonable.

10 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Title, the 11 Agency shall not approve payment to an owner or operator from 12 the Fund for costs of corrective action or indemnification 13 incurred during a calendar year in excess of the following 14 aggregate amounts based on the number of petroleum underground 15 storage tanks owned or operated by such owner or operator in 16 Illinois.

17 Amount Number o	of Tanks
18 \$2,000,000 fewer t	han 101
19 \$3,000,000 101	or more
20 (1) Costs incurred in excess of the aggregate	amounts
21 set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall	not be
22 eligible for payment in subsequent years.	

(2) For purposes of this subsection, requests
submitted by any of the agencies, departments, boards,
committees or commissions of the State of Illinois shall
be acted upon as claims from a single owner or operator.

1 (3) For purposes of this subsection, owner or operator 2 includes (i) any subsidiary, parent, or joint stock 3 company of the owner or operator and (ii) any company 4 owned by any parent, subsidiary, or joint stock company of 5 the owner or operator.

(e) Costs of corrective action or indemnification incurred 6 by an owner or operator which have been paid to an owner or 7 8 operator under a policy of insurance, another written 9 agreement, or a court order are not eligible for payment under 10 this Section. An owner or operator who receives payment under 11 a policy of insurance, another written agreement, or a court 12 order shall reimburse the State to the extent such payment 13 covers costs for which payment was received from the Fund. Any monies received by the State under this subsection (e) shall 14 15 be deposited into the Fund.

16 (f) (Blank.)

17 (g) The Agency shall not approve any payment from the Fund18 to pay an owner or operator:

(1) for costs of corrective action incurred by such
 owner or operator in an amount in excess of \$1,500,000 per
 occurrence; and

(2) for costs of indemnification of such owner or
 operator in an amount in excess of \$1,500,000 per
 occurrence.

(h) Payment of any amount from the Fund for correctiveaction or indemnification shall be subject to the State

acquiring by subrogation the rights of any owner, operator, or other person to recover the costs of corrective action or indemnification for which the Fund has compensated such owner, operator, or person from the person responsible or liable for the release.

6 (i) If the Agency refuses to pay or authorizes only a 7 partial payment, the affected owner or operator may petition 8 the Board for a hearing in the manner provided for the review 9 of permit decisions in Section 40 of this Act.

(j) Costs of corrective action or indemnification incurred by an owner or operator prior to July 28, 1989, shall not be eligible for payment or reimbursement under this Section.

13 (k) The Agency shall not pay costs of corrective action or 14 indemnification incurred before providing notification of the 15 release of petroleum in accordance with the provisions of this 16 Title.

(1) Corrective action does not include legal defense costs. Legal defense costs include legal costs for seeking payment under this Title unless the owner or operator prevails before the Board in which case the Board may authorize payment of legal fees.

(m) The Agency may apportion payment of costs for planssubmitted under Section 57.7 if:

(1) the owner or operator was deemed eligible to
 access the Fund for payment of corrective action costs for
 some, but not all, of the underground storage tanks at the

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site; and

2 (2) the owner or operator failed to justify all costs 3 attributable to each underground storage tank at the site. (n) The Agency shall not pay costs associated with a 4 corrective action plan incurred after the Agency provides 5 notification to the owner or operator pursuant to item (7) of 6 subsection (b) of Section 57.7 that a revised corrective 7 8 plan is required. Costs associated with action any 9 subsequently approved corrective action plan shall be eligible 10 for reimbursement if they meet the requirements of this Title. 11 (Source: P.A. 98-109, eff. 7-25-13.)

12 (415 ILCS 5/57.9)

Sec. 57.9. Underground Storage Tank Fund; eligibility and deductibility.

(a) The Underground Storage Tank Fund shall be accessible
by owners and operators who have a confirmed release from an
underground storage tank or related tank system of a substance
listed in this Section. The owner or operator is eligible to
access the Underground Storage Tank Fund if the eligibility
requirements of this Title are satisfied and:

(1) Neither the owner nor the operator is the United
 States Government.

(2) The tank does not contain fuel which is exempt
from the Motor Fuel Tax Law.

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(3) The costs were incurred as a result of a confirmed

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1 release of any of the following substances:

2 (A) "Fuel", as defined in Section 1.19 of the
3 Motor Fuel Tax Law.

(B) Aviation fuel.

(C) Heating oil.

(D) Kerosene.

7 (E) Used oil which has been refined from crude oil
8 used in a motor vehicle, as defined in Section 1.3 of
9 the Motor Fuel Tax Law.

10 (4) The owner or operator registered the tank and paid
 11 all fees in accordance with the statutory and regulatory
 12 requirements of the Gasoline Storage Act.

13 The owner or operator notified the (5) Illinois 14 Emergency Management Agency of a confirmed release, the 15 costs were incurred after the notification and the costs 16 were a result of a release of a substance listed in this 17 Section. Costs of corrective action or indemnification incurred before providing that notification shall not be 18 19 eligible for payment.

(6) The costs have not already been paid to the owner
or operator under a private insurance policy, other
written agreement, or court order.

(7) The costs were associated with "corrective action"
of this Act.

25 If the underground storage tank which experienced a 26 release of a substance listed in this Section was

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installed after July 28, 1989, the owner or operator is 1 2 eligible to access the Underground Storage Tank Fund if it is demonstrated to the Office of the State Fire Marshal 3 the tank was installed and operated in accordance with 4 5 Office of the State Fire Marshal regulatory requirements. Office of the State Fire Marshal certification is prima 6 7 facie evidence the tank was installed pursuant to the 8 Office of the State Fire Marshal regulatory requirements.

9 (b) For releases reported prior to the effective date of 10 this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly, an owner or 11 operator may access the Underground Storage Tank Fund for 12 costs associated with an Agency approved plan and the Agency 13 shall approve the payment of costs associated with corrective 14 action after the application of a \$10,000 deductible, except 15 in the following situations:

16 (1) A deductible of \$100,000 shall apply when none of 17 the underground storage tanks were registered prior to July 28, 1989, except in the case of underground storage 18 19 tanks used exclusively to store heating oil for 20 consumptive use on the premises where stored and which serve other than farms or residential units, a deductible 21 22 of \$100,000 shall apply when none of these tanks were 23 registered prior to July 1, 1992.

24 (2) A deductible of \$50,000 shall apply if any of the
25 underground storage tanks were registered prior to July
26 28, 1989, and the State received notice of the confirmed

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1 release prior to July 28, 1989.

2 (3) A deductible of \$15,000 shall apply when one or more, but not all, of the underground storage tanks were 3 registered prior to July 28, 1989, and the State received 4 5 notice of the confirmed release on or after July 28, 1989. For releases reported on or after the effective date of 6 7 this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly until the 8 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 102nd General 9 Assembly, an owner or operator may access the Underground 10 Storage Tank Fund for costs associated with an Agency approved 11 plan, and the Agency shall approve the payment of costs 12 associated with corrective action after the application of a 13 \$5,000 deductible.

14 For a release reported on or after the effective date of 15 this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly, an owner or 16 operator may access the Underground Storage Tank Fund for 17 costs associated with an Agency approved plan, and the Agency shall approve the payment of costs associated with corrective 18 19 action without the application of a deductible, except a 20 \$5,000 deductible shall apply to an owner or operator of an underground storage tank that is not registered under the 21 22 Gasoline Storage Act.

A deductible shall apply annually for each site at which costs were incurred under a claim submitted pursuant to this Title, except that if corrective action in response to an occurrence takes place over a period of more than one year, in

- subsequent years, no deductible shall apply for costs incurred
 in response to such occurrence.
- 3 (c) Eligibility and deductibility determinations shall be
 4 made by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

5 (1) When an owner or operator reports a confirmed 6 release of a regulated substance, the Office of the State 7 Fire Marshal shall provide the owner or operator with an 8 "Eligibility and Deductibility Determination" form. The 9 form shall either be provided on-site or within 15 days of 10 the Office of the State Fire Marshal receipt of notice 11 indicating a confirmed release. The form shall request 12 sufficient information to enable the Office of the State Fire Marshal to make a final determination as to owner or 13 14 operator eligibility to access the Underground Storage 15 Tank Fund pursuant to this Title and the appropriate 16 deductible. The form shall be promulgated as a rule or 17 to the Illinois Administrative regulation pursuant Procedure Act by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. 18 19 Until such form is promulgated, the Office of State Fire 20 Marshal shall use a form which generally conforms with this Act. 21

(2) Within 60 days of receipt of the "Eligibility and
Deductibility Determination" form, the Office of the State
Fire Marshal shall issue one letter enunciating the final
eligibility and deductibility determination, and such
determination or failure to act within the time prescribed

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- shall be a final decision appealable to the Illinois
 Pollution Control Board.
- 3 (Source: P.A. 96-908, eff. 6-8-10.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
1, 2022.