

quality? Would they be eligible for that? Or does this relate only to NRDs.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, the way the bill's written, it's...you work through the NRD process. We do not identify municipalities in the bill, at least as one that could request financial assistance.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I guess I'd like a little more explanation then. What...what's the NRD water quality program...would they...would they test just municipal...what would their mandates be that would require matching funds here? How would the NRDs get into this position of requesting money?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, as the bill reads now, the...the NRDs would create a water quality plan. If they have a situation that occurs in their district boundaries, where there is a degradation of the water supply, not just for municipal or domestic use, but possibly, for example, nitrate buildups in the groundwater in a rural setting, for example, they could respond that way by doing some testing to find out if they need additional funds. But it is not designed specifically for the purposes of...of addressing only municipal needs.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: But if...can NRDs mandate water testing on a...on private landowners or municipalities, or would they be doing the testing themselves and then this would be a match for them? Is that...

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, I think they can demand testing of wells now, if I remember correctly. I'd have to go back and check for sure, but the idea is to provide some funds for testing so that if we do have a water quality problem in a specific NRD, that we can identify that problem and then begin the process of setting up a...a contingency plan to address the quality of the water there...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: ...what programs we might need to restore the integrity of that water supply.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: But this would not help us...not necessarily in a small community, but any community that is having water quality problems and has to do quite a bit of testing...this