
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 2477

Brief Description: Providing for groundwater monitoring and assessments.

Sponsors: Representatives McCoy, Williams, Dickerson, Dunshee, Lantz, Hasegawa, Ormsby, McIntire, Kagi, Upthegrove, Chase, Linville and Hunt.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Department of Ecology (DOE) to improve their groundwater monitoring program.
- Directs the DOE to conduct two pilot groundwater assessment programs, and a gap analysis.
- Provides a \$2.5 million dollar appropriation from the General Fund.

Hearing Date: January 23, 2008

Staff: Jaclyn Ford (786-7339).

Background:

The Department of Ecology (DOE) has the ability to monitor groundwater areas, collect data, and keep a water resources information system as part of their Water Resource Data Program [RCW 90.54.030]. Most of the general information collected is found on the DOE website. However data collection is maintained throughout many of the individual programs at the DOE, local governments, and the federal government and has not be combined into one uniform database.

Summary of Bill:

The DOE's groundwater monitoring program will be improved by standardizing methods, quality assurance, and data management practices, as well as migrating existing data to a central database and expanding the current ambient monitoring activities.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

By June 30, 2009 the DOE will conduct a pilot groundwater assessment program in both western and eastern Washington. The pilot programs will be conducted in water resources inventory areas (WRIAs) experiencing serious or critical withdrawals.

By December 31, 2008 the DOE will prepare a gap analysis that evaluates groundwater monitoring throughout Washington's WRIAs.

Two and a half million dollars from the General Fund is appropriated to the DOE to implement these programs.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.