
SENATE BILL 6593

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Kline, Oemig, Rockefeller, Swecker, Murray, Regala, and Pridemore

Read first time 01/18/08. Referred to Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications.

1 AN ACT Relating to groundwater monitoring and assessment; amending
2 RCW 43.27A.130; adding a new section to chapter 90.54 RCW; creating a
3 new section; recodifying RCW 43.27A.130; and making an appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.27A.130 and 1988 c 127 s 26 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The department of ecology may make complete inventories of the
8 state's water resources and enter into such agreements with the
9 director of the United States geological survey as will (~~insure~~)
10 ensure that investigations and surveys are carried on in an economical
11 manner.

12 (2) The department shall enhance the ambient groundwater monitoring
13 and assessment program in order to accurately characterize long-term
14 trends in the state's groundwater levels and water quality. The
15 program may be improved in phases and must include but is not limited
16 to:

17 (a) Standardizing methods, quality assurance, and data management
18 practices for measuring groundwater levels and quality;

1 (b) Creating a central database and migrating existing data to the
2 central database; and

3 (c) Expanding and supporting current ambient monitoring and
4 assessment activities by June 30, 2009.

5 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. (1) By June 30, 2011, the department of
6 ecology shall conduct two voluntary pilot groundwater assessments in
7 water resource inventory areas experiencing serious or critical
8 withdrawals. One pilot groundwater assessment must be initiated in
9 western Washington and one pilot groundwater assessment in eastern
10 Washington.

11 (2) By June 30, 2009, the department of ecology shall prepare a
12 data gap analysis that evaluates existing groundwater information on
13 water levels and water quality within each water resource inventory
14 area of the state. The analysis must include:

15 (a) Obtaining and summarizing historic and current monitoring of
16 ambient groundwater levels and water quality across the state;

17 (b) An evaluation of the completeness and quality of the data and
18 conclusions produced from such monitoring and capture and migration of
19 useful data;

20 (c) An identification of groundwater basins where water quantity
21 levels are of concern but no monitoring is being conducted;

22 (d) An evaluation and recommendations for quality controls and
23 other protocols associated with data collection and management;

24 (e) A compilation and summary of existing studies of groundwater
25 levels, water quality, and monitoring activities; and

26 (f) Recommendations on the components necessary to establish a
27 comprehensive, statewide ambient groundwater monitoring and assessment
28 program and the funding necessary to implement the program.

29 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The sum of two million five hundred thousand
30 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
31 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the
32 department of ecology for the purposes of this act.

33 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. RCW 43.27A.130 is recodified as a section in

1 chapter 90.54 RCW.

--- END ---