
DIGEST

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HB 706 Original

2026 Regular Session

Riser

Abstract: Establishes default maximum allowable surface injection pressure.

Present law authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Conservation and Energy to regulate Class II injection wells for the disposal of oil and gas exploration and production waste.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law establishes a baseline standard for allowable injection pressure for commercial disposal wells by incorporating present law contained in federal regulations.

Proposed law provides that the default MASIP for commercial disposal may be calculated by the department at 90% of the fracture gradient for the injection interval.

Proposed law creates a process for operators to apply to the department for an increased MASIP by demonstrating the following to the department:

- (1) An increased MASIP will not cause fractures through the confining zone.
- (2) A licensed professional engineer or geoscientist attests to the validity of the first demonstration.
- (3) There are sufficient confining formations between the disposal well and any oil or gas well within one mile.
- (4) Regulatory casing requirements have been met.
- (5) There are no artificial penetrations within the area of review or penetrations have been properly sealed, completed, or plugged and abandoned.
- (6) There are monitoring wells that monitor the underground source of drinking water.
- (7) Historical seismic data for the area of interest does not show increased seismicity or the operator has seismic monitoring and response plans approved by the department.

Proposed law requires that the MASIP for an operator that meets the required demonstrations must be allowed at 0.4 pounds per square inch per vertical foot from the surface to the top-most perforation and may be allowed up to 0.5 pounds per square inch per vertical foot.

Proposed law requires the department to approve or deny an application for an increased MASIP within 60 days of receiving the application.

Proposed law provides that exceeding a permitted MASIP or violating any provisions of proposed

law is a violation subject to penalties established in present law.

(Adds R.S. 30:4.4)