
DIGEST

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James

HB No. 1120

Abstract: Determines that the Southern Hills Aquifer System is an area of groundwater concern and a critical area of groundwater concern and implements limitations on withdrawals of groundwater from that aquifer system.

Proposed law determines that the Southern Hills Aquifer System is an area of groundwater concern and a critical area of groundwater concern. Defines terms.

Requires the commissioner of conservation to limit the use and withdrawal of groundwater in the Southern Hills Aquifer System as follows:

- (1) Each new facility established after Aug. 1, 2014, shall be limited to 500,000 gallons of groundwater per day.
- (2) On or before Aug. 1, 2020, each facility that uses groundwater from the Southern Hills Aquifer System shall be limited to 500,000 gallons of groundwater per day.

Further requires the commission to reduce the water usage from the Southern Hills Aquifer System by any facility located within one mile of the Mississippi River as follows:

- (1) Beginning on Aug. 1, 2015, the facility shall be limited to 80% of the facility's average daily water use rate.
- (2) Beginning on Aug. 1, 2016, the facility shall be limited to 60% of the facility's average daily water use rate.
- (3) Beginning on Aug. 1, 2017, the facility shall be limited to 40% of the facility's average daily water use rate.
- (4) Beginning on Aug. 1, 2018, the facility shall be limited to 20% of the facility's average daily water use rate.
- (5) Beginning on Aug. 1, 2019, the facility shall be limited to 12% of the facility's average daily water use rate.

Present law creates the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District consisting of the parishes of E. Baton Rouge, E. Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, W. Baton Rouge, and W. Feliciana and

provides for the powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities of the commission. Proposed law provides for the commission to take steps to prevent waste of groundwater in the district by enforcing the withdrawal limitations provided in proposed law.

Present law provides for apportioning groundwater from an aquifer on the basis of a "just and equitable share" based on the demonstrable geologic and hydrologic data taking into consideration the volume of groundwater in storage, the maximum perennial recharge potential, and any groundwater use priorities established by the board. Proposed law subjects the "just and equitable share" to the limitations set forth in proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 38:3073(11); Adds R.S. 38:3076(A)(25) and 3097.9)