

Fiscal Analysis

GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWALS



Bill/Sponsor **SENATE BILL 289 H-2**, Sen. Patricia Birkholz
HOUSE BILL 4087 Rep. John R. Moolenaar

House Committee Land Use and Environment

Analysis

Summary

Senate Bill 289 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department of Environmental Quality to prepare a statewide groundwater inventory and map, create an advisory council to study the sustainability of groundwater use, provide a funding source for related programs, register farms using more than 100,000 gallons a day, require the Department of Agriculture to estimate water use and consumption. House Bill 4087 would require the DEQ or the MDA to investigate and resolve groundwater withdrawal conflicts.

Fiscal Impact

Owners of facilities who file annual water use reports currently pay a \$50 reporting fee. SB 289 would increase this fee to \$100. This revenue would be deposited into the Water Use Protection Fund and used to pay costs related to the preparation of the required statewide groundwater inventory and map.

The doubling of the Water Use Reporting Fee would increase state revenues by more than \$45,000 annually. This would provide approximately \$90,000 to cover the annual appropriation for this program. The Department of Environmental Quality estimates total program costs to be about \$150,000. If this program were implemented in the manner anticipated by the department, \$60,000 would be needed from Departmental sources, or from the State General Fund.

There would be no fiscal impact on local governmental units.

Analyst(s)

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FLOOR ANALYSIS - 7/15/03

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