

Subject Water-Use Permits

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Overview

This bill modifies requirements of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) when issuing water-use permits, including requiring public meetings for certain permits and establishing additional determinations that must be made prior to issuing a permit.

A water-use permit from the DNR is required, with certain exceptions, when the use of groundwater or surface water is 10,000 gallons per day or more or if the use exceeds 1 million gallons per year.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p>Public meeting.</p> <p>Requires the DNR to hold a public meeting prior to issuing a water-use permit if the permit is for the average use of more than 216,000 gallons per day. Specifies the location and notice requirements for the meeting.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Vintage groundwater.</p> <p>Prohibits the DNR from issuing a water-use permit appropriating vintage water (defined as water with a tritium concentration less than or equal to one tritium unit) unless it can determine that the use will not cause groundwater with a higher tritium content to be drawn into the vintage water.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Sustainability standard.</p> <p>Requires the DNR to make a determination that the level of recharge to an impacted aquifer is sufficient to replenish the supply to meet the needs of future generations when determining whether a water-use is sustainable.</p> |



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