

Subject Mt. Simon-Hinckley Water-Use Permits

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Summary

As amended, this bill would allow the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue a water-use permit appropriating groundwater from the Mt. Simon-Hinckley aquifer, when there is no feasible or practical alternative, as follows:

- 1) for a priority one use (i.e. domestic water supply, excluding industrial and commercial uses); and
- 2) for the irrigation of growing crops in counties north of the seven-county metropolitan area.

The permits must be consistent with existing permitting requirements and have a water conservation plan that incorporates the best available water conservation technology and practices. The irrigation permits would also be subject to additional monitoring and testing requirements and could not exceed 50,000,000 gallons per year.

Under current law, the DNR may issue a water-use permit for the Mt. Simon-Hinckley aquifer only for potable water when there is no feasible or practical alternative, and a water conservation plan is incorporated in the permit.