

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill would prohibit the adoption of rules related to water quality and protection during fiscal year 2012 and require an evaluation of state and local water management and rules.

- 1** **Water rulemaking moratorium.** Prohibits certain agencies (the Pollution Control Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Environmental Quality Board, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Health) from adopting rules related to water quality or water resource protection during fiscal year 2012. Provides exceptions for rulemaking currently in process, emergency rules, and expedited rulemaking.
- 2** **Evaluation required.** Requires the Department of Administration to evaluate state and local water management. Requires the evaluation to: (1) identify and analyze existing rules related to surface water and groundwater; (2) assess the pros and cons of alternative approaches to water management; (3) identify inconsistencies and redundancies; (4) identify ways to coordinate rulemaking and implementation more effectively and efficiently; (5) identify a process for assessing and evaluating rules; (6) rely on scientific and peer-reviewed data; (7) evaluate current responsibilities of the state agencies; and (8) assess the role of the clean water fund. Requires the evaluation to be submitted to the legislature and the agencies by January 15, 2012.