

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill would prohibit the adoption of rules related to water quality and protection during the 2012-2013 biennium and require a study 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 the 2012-2013 biennium and extends Wetland Conservation Act expedited rulemaking granted in 2007 until June 30, 2013.
- 2** **Study required.** Requires the Department of Administration to conduct a study, in consultation with agency representatives, technical professionals, and other interested parties, on state and local water management. Requires the study 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; and (6) rely on scientific and peer-reviewed data. Requires the study to be submitted to the legislature and the agencies by January 15, 2012.