

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

This bill would require public water suppliers serving more than 1,000 people to implement a conservation rate structure, by January 1, 2015 (or sooner if they seek approval for a new well or an increase in the amount of water they are authorized to use), unless the recharge rates for all groundwater supplies they use are known. Conservation rate structures are rate structures that encourage conservation, such as increasing block rates, seasonal rates, and excess use rates.

In 2008, a law was passed that required public water suppliers serving more than 1,000 people to adopt conservation rate structures. Metropolitan area public water suppliers were required to adopt the rates by January 1, 2010, and all other public water suppliers were to adopt the rates by January 1, 2013. In 2012, the law was amended to remove the requirement to adopt conservation rate structures and instead required the adoption of demand reduction measures. The demand reduction measures had to include either a conservation rate structure or a uniform rate structure with a conservation program.

### Section

- 1 Water supply plans; demand reduction.** Amends § 103G.291, subd. 3. Requires a public water supplier serving more than 1,000 people to have a conservation rate structure before requesting approval to construct a new public water supply well or requesting an increase in the authorized amount of water they may use unless the recharge rates for all the groundwater sources the public water supplier uses are known.

**Section**

- 2**      **Demand reduction measures.** Amends § 103G.291, subd. 4. Requires a public water supplier serving more than 1,000 people to have a conservation rate structure by January 1, 2015, unless the recharge rates for all groundwater sources being used by the supplier are known.