

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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This bill would require a drainage system that has not been through a redetermination of benefits process after May 20, 1977, to undergo a redetermination by July 1, 2020. It also would require the Board of Water and Soil Resources, in consultation with the Drainage Work Group, to establish alternative methods for determining benefits and damages for drainage systems that uses current technology and information.

Under the state's drainage law, the benefits (or damages) of a drainage system are calculated in order to assess the costs of the system back to those benefiting from the system. A system that has gone through a redetermination after May 20, 1977, is required to have a permanent vegetative buffer of 16 and one-half feet due to a law passed in 1977 that requires the buffer whenever "viewers" are required (which includes a redetermination).