

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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This bill would modify the definition of public waters for purposes of the new buffer and alternative water quality practice requirements passed into law in 2015.

The bill would exclude wetlands and natural and altered watercourses with a total drainage area greater than two square miles from the definition of public waters which, if included on buffer protection maps prepared by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), are required to have a 50-foot average (30-foot minimum) buffer of permanent vegetation, unless a more restrictive requirement applies under existing shoreland requirements (landowners with land used for cultivation adjacent to waters/ditches required to be buffered may adopt certain alternative riparian water quality practices in lieu of installing a buffer).