

Subject Mt. Simon-Hinckley Water-Use Permits

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Date March 11, 2026

Summary

As amended, this bill would allow the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue a water-use permit appropriating groundwater from the Mt. Simon-Hinckley aquifer, when there is no feasible or practical alternative, as follows:

- 1) within the seven-county metropolitan area for a priority one use (i.e. domestic water supply, excluding industrial and commercial uses); and
- 2) outside the seven-county metropolitan area for priorities one through five (everything but the sixth priority use (i.e. nonessential uses)).

The permits must be consistent with existing permitting requirements and have a water conservation plan that incorporates the best available water conservation technology and practices.

Under current law, the DNR may issue a water-use permit for the Mt. Simon-Hinckley aquifer only for potable water when there is no feasible or practical alternative, and a water conservation plan is incorporated in the permit.