

SENATE FILE NO. SF0093

Casper aquifer-land acquisition.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Rothfuss, Hastert, Jennings,
Landen, Meier and Ross and Representative(s)
Blake, Brown, Connolly, Goggles, Greear,
Greene, Lubnau, Moniz, Petroff and
Zwonitzer, Dn.

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to protection of a water resource;
2 providing for negotiation for and potential acquisition of
3 real property interests to facilitate protection of the
4 aquifer; providing for public hearings; requiring a report;
5 providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective
6 date.

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8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** The director of the office of state lands,
11 acting with the advice of the attorney general and the
12 consent of the governor shall negotiate to acquire fee or
13 other interests in real property to protect current and
14 future water sources important to the residents of southeast
15 Wyoming within the Casper aquifer recharge zone lying to the

1 east of the city of Laramie. If any such interest is
2 acquired, it shall be held initially in the name of the
3 state and the director shall hold public meetings to gather
4 input as to where the ownership interests shall be
5 subsequently vested. The director shall summarize the
6 meetings and report to the joint agriculture, state and
7 public lands and water resources interim committee within
8 three (3) months of acquiring any such interest. The
9 committee may sponsor legislation as it deems appropriate
10 regarding ownership interests.

11

12 **Section 2.**

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14 (a) There is appropriated fifteen million dollars
15 (\$15,000,000.00) from the general fund to the office of
16 state lands. This appropriation shall be for the period
17 beginning with the effective date of this act and ending
18 June 30, 2014. This appropriation shall only be expended
19 for the purpose specified in this act. Notwithstanding any
20 other provision of law, this appropriation shall not be
21 transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
22 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
23 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
24 2014.

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2 (b) This appropriation shall not be included in the
3 office of state lands 2015-2016 standard biennial budget
4 request.

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6 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
7 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
8 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
9 Constitution.

10

11

(END)