

SENATE FILE NO. SF0050

State engineer-surface and ground water study.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Love, Crago, Hutchings, Nethercott
and Steinmetz and Representative(s) Davis,
Filer, Fornstrom, Geringer, Johnson,
Provenza and Winter

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to water; requiring the state engineer to
2 conduct a groundwater study in control areas as specified;
3 requiring reports; providing an appropriation; and
4 providing for an effective date.

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

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8 **Section 1.** W.S. 41-3-939 is created to read:

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10 **41-3-939. Groundwater study to assess corrective**
11 **controls within groundwater control areas.**

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13 Subject to available funding, not less than once every ten
14 (10) years the state engineer shall conduct a groundwater

1 study in each county that has a control area designated by
2 the board of control under W.S. 41-3-912 and where the
3 state engineer has ordered one (1) or more corrective
4 controls under W.S. 41-3-915. The study under this section
5 shall assess the effect of the ordered corrective controls,
6 assess recharge of the aquifer compared to water
7 consumption from that aquifer and assess the impact of
8 future development on the aquifer. The study under this
9 section may include mapping, modeling and the drilling of
10 monitoring wells. The state engineer may conduct a study
11 under this section in counties without a control area if
12 deemed necessary by the state engineer. The results of each
13 study conducted under this section shall be made public by
14 the state engineer and shall be reported to the joint
15 agriculture, state and public lands and water resources
16 interim committee not later than sixty (60) days after the
17 study is completed.

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19 **Section 2.** The initial study required under W.S.
20 41-3-939 as created by section 1 of this act shall be
21 completed not later than June 30, 2030. There is
22 appropriated five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00)
23 from the general fund to the state engineer's office for

1 purposes of conducting the study required by W.S. 41-3-939
2 as created by section 1 of this act. This appropriation
3 shall be for the period beginning with the effective date
4 of this act and ending June 30, 2031. This appropriation
5 shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose
6 and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
7 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
8 2031. It is the intent of the legislature that this
9 appropriation not be included in the state engineer's
10 standard budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal
11 biennium.

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13 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2026.

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(END)