

SENATE FILE NO. SF0050

State engineer-surface and ground water study.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Love, Crago, 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.

5

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

7

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

9

10 **41-3-939. Groundwater study for recommended**
11 **residential lot sizes.**

12

13 Not less than once every ten (10) years the state engineer
14 shall conduct a groundwater study in each county that has a

1 control area designated by the board of control under W.S.
2 41-3-912. The study under this section shall determine
3 water consumption based on the total area and controls that
4 may be necessary to provide for the recharge of the
5 underground water system due to water consumption. The
6 study under this section may include mapping and the
7 drilling of test wells. The state engineer may conduct a
8 study under this section in counties without a control area
9 if deemed necessary by the state engineer. The results of
10 each study conducted under this section shall be made
11 public by the state engineer and shall be reported to the
12 joint agriculture, state and public lands and water
13 resources interim committee not later than fifteen (15)
14 days after the study is completed.

15

16 **Section 2.** The initial study required under W.S.
17 41-3-939 as created by section 1 of this act shall be
18 completed not later than June 30, 2028. There is
19 appropriated two hundred fifty thousand dollars
20 (\$250,000.00) from the general fund to the state engineer's
21 office for purposes of conducting the study required by
22 W.S. 41-3-939 as created by section 1 of this act. This
23 appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the

1 effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2028. This
2 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any
3 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
4 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided
5 by law on June 30, 2028. It is the intent of the
6 legislature that this appropriation not be included in the
7 state engineer's standard budget for the immediately
8 succeeding fiscal biennium.

9

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

11

12 (END)