



HB20-1069

SHORT TITLE: Add Water Well Inspectors Identify High-risk Wells

LONG TITLE: Concerning inspection of water wells

SPONSORS: Reps. Saine and Titone /Sens. Sonnenberg and Coram

COMMITTEES: House Rural Affairs & Agriculture Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To increase the number of water well inspectors and establish priorities for inspecting high risk wells.

PROponents OF THE BILL: Well inspectors, owners of domestic wells.

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Real estate developers, individual property owners.

BACKGROUND: For the past two or more years the Water Resources Review Committee has heard from owners of poorly constructed wells. With rapidly growing populations including property owners dependent on private wells, additional inspectors are needed. Limited financial resources require that priorities be established for inspecting wells. Deficiencies in well inspections were identified in an audit report. Regulations to set criteria for prioritization are being developed in order to identify wells at risk for polluting groundwater experiencing failure.

Is this bill necessary this year? It is argued that faulty well installation has cost homeowners thousands of dollars.

How does the bill change current law? It directs the State Engineer to employ a minimum of four well inspectors and directs the state board of water well construction and pump installation contractors to promulgate rules before Nov. 1, 2020 to identify and priorities high risk wells for inspection.

Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system? No.

How is the bill implemented? The State Engineer must hire additional inspectors and the state board must promulgate rules prior to Nov. 1, 2020

Practical considerations: How long will it take to hire well inspectors and at what cost? How much time will be required for the legally required notice of rulemaking?

Fiscal Impact: No fiscal impact statement has been issued to date.