



SB19-186

SHORT TITLE: Expand Agricultural Chemical Management Program Protect Surface

LONG TITLE: Concerning the expansion of agricultural chemical management plans to protect surface water.

SPONSORS: Senators Donovan and Coram/Rep. Arndt

COMMITTEES: Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To expand the authority of the commissioner of Agriculture to include protection of surface and subsurface waters from the impacts of agricultural chemicals.

PROPONENTS OF THE BILL:

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Dept. Agriculture, Water providers, CDPHE, downstream water users; local health departments, Farm Bureau, Farmers' Union, Pesticide and fertilizer manufacturers, pesticide and fertilizer applicators, weed control districts, entities with weed control responsibilities

BACKGROUND: The current requirement for the Commissioner of Agriculture's ag chemical management plan covers only protection of groundwater. The bill expands that scope to include both surface and subsurface waters (all waters of the state).

Is this bill necessary this year? No

How does the bill change current law? Protection of surface waters must now be part of the plan. Best management practices will need to be updated to address issues such as run-off and stream pollution in addition to the potential for leaching into groundwater.

Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system? No

How is the bill implemented? The Commissioner of Ag must amend rules to cover surface water protection

Practical considerations: Will this require additional staff? Will this require coordination with the Water Quality Control Division?

Fiscal impact: There is no fiscal note yet