

AMENDMENTS TO LB 1234

(Amendments to Standing Committee amendments, AM2553)

1 1. Insert the following new sections:

2 "Sec. 5. The Legislature finds that (1) existing
3 monitoring of ground water quality performed by natural resources
4 districts is excellent and deserves recognition, (2) substantial
5 efforts have been undertaken by the Department of Environmental
6 Quality to monitor surface water quality, and (3) it is within the
7 state's capacity to develop a comprehensive, integrated statewide
8 water quality monitoring system.

9 Sec. 6. The Department of Environmental Quality shall
10 conduct a comprehensive study of water quality monitoring in
11 Nebraska pursuant to section 7 of this act. In preparing Phase I
12 of the study, the department shall work with and consult an
13 advisory committee consisting of a designee from each of the
14 following: The American Consulting Engineers Council of Nebraska,
15 the Department of Agriculture, the Nebraska Natural Resources
16 Commission, the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation
17 and Licensure, the Department of Water Resources, the League of
18 Nebraska Municipalities, the Nebraska Association of Resource
19 Districts, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the United
20 States Geological Survey, and the University of Nebraska. The
21 advisory group for Phase II of the study shall include the members
22 listed in this section for Phase I and be expanded to include all
23 groups found by the Department of Environmental Quality to be

1 significant stakeholders in the water quality area. Phase I of the
2 study shall be presented to the Natural Resources Committee of the
3 Legislature on or before December 1, 2000, and Phase II shall be
4 presented to the committee on or before June 30, 2001.

5 Sec. 7. (1) The study required by section 6 of this act
6 consist of two phases. Phase I of the study shall consist of an
7 assessment of Nebraska's current water quality monitoring efforts
8 and shall address, but not be limited to, the following:

9 (a) A detailed description of all current water quality
10 monitoring efforts at the state and local levels, including scope,
11 location, timing, procedure, number of personnel, state agency or
12 local government involved, and funding;

13 (b) An analysis of current water quality monitoring
14 efforts, indicating what the existing system does well and fails to
15 do or does inadequately. The analysis shall address, but not be
16 limited to, the following questions:

17 (i) Is the current number of monitoring sites sufficient
18 to provide accurate information on water quality in all regions of
19 the state;

20 (ii) Is the current frequency of monitoring efforts
21 sufficient to provide an accurate measurement of changes in water
22 quality over time;

23 (iii) Are the current methods of sample collection and
24 analysis scientifically sound and is the collection of samples and
25 subsequent testing conducted in a manner which reasonably assures
26 accurate measurements;

27 (iv) Is the current reporting process timely and does it

1 present information to policymakers in an understandable and usable
2 form;

3 (v) Is the current coordination of monitoring efforts
4 between the Department of Environmental Quality, natural resources
5 districts, and county or local governments sufficient; and

6 (vi) Does the current system provide a mechanism insuring
7 statewide or regional coordination of water quality monitoring
8 efforts when desirable.

9 (2) Phase II of the study shall utilize the information
10 gathered during Phase I and shall consist of a detailed description
11 of the changes required in the current system to establish a
12 comprehensive, integrated statewide water quality monitoring
13 system, including preferred alternatives if multiple options exist.
14 The proposed monitoring system shall include, but not be limited
15 to, the following:

16 (a) Recommended monitoring site locations;

17 (b) A description of acceptable monitoring techniques;

18 (c) The institutional flexibility to allow contaminants
19 to be monitored on a statewide or regional basis as needed;

20 (d) Procedures to determine when coordinated monitoring
21 between state and local entities is needed and policies for
22 directing such monitoring;

23 (e) Provisions for the development of long-term trend
24 lines for problem contaminants, for the inclusion of new
25 contaminants, and for elimination of contaminants no longer
26 requiring monitoring;

27 (f) Mechanisms to determine the best locations to monitor

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1 water quality for different types of contaminants and how to define
2 local or regional problem areas; and

3 (g) An estimate of funding necessary to implement the
4 recommendations of the study.".

5 2. On page 2, line 17, strike "This act becomes" and
6 insert "Sections 1 to 4 and 9 of this act become" and after the
7 period insert "The other sections of this act become operative on
8 their effective date.".

9 3. Renumber the remaining sections accordingly.