



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 801

Chairperson: LeRoy Louden
Committee: Natural Resources
Date of Hearing: February 6, 2008

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

This bill's purpose is to improve the Groundwater Management and Protection Act by adding a requirement that integrated management plans under the Act must assure that there is no increase in consumptive use when transferring a surface water right off of land that is also irrigated by a ground water well. The intent is to provide assurance that the Department and the natural resources district will both be responsible for allowing no increase in consumptive use. The bill does not proscribe any particular method for achieving the required offset, so planning flexibility is retained.

There is an amendment to the bill which would require an integrated management plan or ground water management plan to include a provision that all water wells capable of pumping fifty gallons per minute or more must have a measuring device installed by June 30, 2012. The device must be approved by the natural resources district where the well is located. The amendment requires the department to require appropriate measuring devices to be installed on surface water diversion works by June 30, 2012.

The amendment also requires the district to report to the department regarding the amount of water pumped and other information, and the department to report to the legislature the total amount of water pumped by water wells and from surface water diversion works, identifying the amounts by river basin.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator LeRoy J. Louden