



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2015 Senate Bill 239**

**Senate Substitute  
Amendment 2**

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### **2015 SENATE BILL 239**

This bill specifies that a new permit is not required, and no fee may be charged, for the owner of a permitted high capacity well to repair, maintain, replace, or reconstruct a high capacity well, or to transfer a high capacity well to a new owner, subject to certain conditions. The standards and conditions of the original permit generally continue to apply after any of these actions are taken.

### **SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 2**

This substitute amendment also includes provisions that are similar to those contained in the bill related to repair, maintenance, replacement, reconstruction, or transfer of previously permitted high capacity wells.

In addition, the substitute amendment does all of the following:

- Requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to evaluate and model the hydrology of Pleasant Lake in Waushara County and any other navigable stream or navigable lake located in specified watersheds in parts of Adams, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, Portage, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, and Wood Counties for which the DNR seeks to determine whether existing and potential groundwater withdrawals are causing or are likely to cause a significant reduction of the navigable stream's or navigable lake's rate of flow or water level below its average seasonal levels.
- Specifies that the DNR may request funding and staff positions from the Joint Committee on Finance to conduct this study.

- Requires the DNR to begin its study within one year of the effective date of the bill, and to report its conclusions and recommendations to the Legislature within three years of beginning the study.
- Requires the DNR to make recommendations about any special regulatory or other measures that should be applied to groundwater withdrawals in a study area to prevent or remedy a significant reduction of a navigable stream's or navigable lake's rate of flow or water level below its average seasonal levels.
- Requires the owner of a new high capacity well located in one of these study areas, or an owner who replaces, reconstructs, or transfers ownership of a high capacity well located in a designated study area, to install a water usage meter and provide data on water usage from the meter to the DNR.
- Requires the DNR to expedite and charge no fee for an approval for the construction of a high capacity well, submitted by a lake association or lake district, that will be used solely to provide water to a lake located in a designated study area to assist DNR in evaluating and modeling the hydrology of that area, if DNR makes certain determinations.
- Requires the DNR to develop and administer a financial assistance program to provide grants to lake associations or districts to construct high capacity wells for this purpose.

## **BILL HISTORY**

Senate Substitute Amendment 2 was introduced by Senator Gudex. On March 14, 2016, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism voted to recommend adoption of Senate Substitute Amendment 2 and passage of Senate Bill 239, as amended, by votes of Ayes: 5; Noes: 4.

LAK:jal