Fiscal Estimate - 2021 Session

Original Updated	Corrected	Supplemental				
LRB Number 21-5954/1	Introduction Number	SB-948				
Description Removing the livestock requirement under the well compensation grant program and requiring an annual report to the Joint Committee on Finance						
Fiscal Effect						
AppropriationsRever	ease Existing absorb within	1				
Local: No Local Government Costs Indeterminate 1. Increase Costs Permissive Mandatory 2. Decrease Costs Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory Decrease Revenue Permissive Mandatory Decrease Revenue Decrease Revenue School Districts Districts						
Fund Sources Affected GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEGS						
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date				
DNR/ Paul Neumann (608) 266-0818	Paul Neumann (608) 266-0818	2/10/2022				

Fiscal Estimate Narratives DNR 2/10/2022

LRB Number	21-5954/1	Introduction Number	SB-948	Estimate Type	Original
Description					
Removing the livestock requirement under the well compensation grant program and requiring an annual					
report to the Joint Committee on Finance					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill removes the requirement that a water supply contaminated only by nitrates must also be used for livestock to be eligible for a Well Compensation Grant. Under the bill, a well that is contaminated only by nitrates is eligible for a grant if the well is used at least three months in each year and contains nitrates in excess of 40 parts per million (ppm).

The bill also requires the department to prepare an annual report to the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) detailing the number of claims submitted and amount of awards provided under Well Compensation Grant program.

State Fiscal Effect

I. One-Time Costs

The department will incur minimal one-time costs to update Well Compensation Grant application materials and website.

- II. Ongoing Costs
- A. Department staff queried the Groundwater Retrieval Network database for nitrate samples collected between 1/1/2001 and 12/31/2021. After adjusting for duplicate samples, 41 of the 33,746 samples--or 0.1%--contained nitrate levels greater than 40 ppm over this 21 year period. Of these 41 wells, it's not possible to know how many well owners would meet the income eligibility criteria and thus would be eligible for a Well Compensation Grant. Therefore, the impact on grant expenditures is indeterminate.
- B. Given the number of wells that contain nitrates over 40 ppm from the Groundwater Retrieval Network query, it is assumed that the ongoing workload to review applications and process grants for wells that meet this criteria and the income limit of \$65,000 is minimal.
- C. The department will incur minimal costs to prepare the annual report for JFC.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications