



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2017 Senate Bill 76

Senate Amendment 4

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2017 SENATE BILL 76

Among other changes to current law, 2017 Senate Bill 76 (the bill) requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to evaluate and model the hydrology of a specified lake and allows the DNR to evaluate the hydrology of other streams and lakes in a specified designated study area. As specified in the bill, the purpose of this evaluation is to determine whether existing and potential groundwater withdrawals are causing or are likely to cause a significant reduction of a navigable stream's or navigable lake's rate of flow or water level below its average seasonal levels. If the DNR concludes such impacts are or will be occurring, the agency is required to propose any special measures related to groundwater withdrawal that it recommends that the State Legislature implement to rectify those impacts.

The bill also requires owners of high capacity wells that are constructed, reconstructed, replaced, or transferred to a new owner in an area studied by the DNR under the bill to provide readings to the DNR from a water meter showing the volume of water usage from their high capacity wells during a specified time period.

The specified lake that the DNR is required to study under the bill is Pleasant Lake in Waushara County. The DNR may also study other navigable streams or lakes in the designated study area made up of the Fourteenmile Creek Watershed in Adams, Juneau, Portage, Waushara, and Wood Counties, the Mecan River Watershed in Green Lake, Marquette, and Waushara Counties, and the Pine River and Willow Creek Watershed in Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago Counties.

SENATE AMENDMENT 4

Senate Amendment 4 modifies the list of specific water bodies that the DNR is required to evaluate and the designated study area in which the DNR may study other navigable

streams and lakes. Specifically, the amendment requires the DNR to evaluate the hydrology of Plainfield Lake and Long Lake, along with Pleasant Lake. The amendment also revises the designated study area by adding the Ten Mile Creek Watershed and the Lone Rock-Fourteenmile Creek Watershed located in Adams, Portage, Waushara, and Wood Counties and removing the Mecan River Watershed in Green Lake, Marquette, and Waushara Counties and the Pine River and Willow Creek Watershed in Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago Counties.

BILL HISTORY

Senate Amendment 4 was offered by Senator Testin on April 4, 2017. On April 4, 2017, the Senate adopted the amendment and on April 5, 2017, the Senate passed the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 19; Noes, 13.

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