
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2019 Senate Bill 722

Senate Amendment 1

2019 SENATE BILL 722

2019 Senate Bill 722 relates to Wisconsin groundwater quality research and education. Specifically, it provides funding to support the operations of the Center for Watershed Science and Education (“the Center”) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and provides grant funds to support countywide testing and mapping of privately owned wells.

The bill establishes requirements for and directs the Department of Natural Resources to administer the grant program. Specifically, the bill authorizes grants to counties for both of the following:

- Conducting countywide testing and mapping of privately owned wells to assess groundwater quality and to determine the extent and type of any contamination and to study and map geologic characteristics and well construction practices in the county, including depth to bedrock and well age, to determine any correlation between water quality, geology, and well construction.
- If a county has completed the study discussed above, notifying the public of the results and notifying private well owners whose wells may be contaminated based on the results.

As a condition of receiving a grant, a county must provide equal matching funds and must submit the results of its testing to the Center.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 requires that, upon request, the Center provide the information received from counties and any other information or data in its possession that is relevant to addressing Wisconsin water quality issues. The amendment prohibits the Center from providing any personally identifiable information when doing so.

BILL HISTORY

2019 Senate Bill 722 was recommended by the Speaker’s Task Force on Water Quality and introduced by Senators Testin and Olsen. Senator Testin offered Senate Amendment 1 on February 7, 2020. On February 11, 2020, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy voted to recommend adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, both on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

AH:jal