

**House File 2687 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2687  
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2117)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to groundwater monitoring in the state, including
- 2 the establishment of a pilot program, and including effective
- 3 date provisions.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.

2 1. Iowa's groundwater resources are essential for drinking  
3 water, agriculture, and economic vitality.

4 2. The Iowa geological survey currently monitors groundwater  
5 levels in approximately sixty wells statewide, which is  
6 insufficient to represent the diversity of Iowa's aquifers.

7 3. Installing new dedicated monitoring wells is costly, while  
8 many existing wells owned by businesses or other private entities  
9 could provide valuable data if retrofitted with modern monitoring  
10 equipment.

11 4. Retrofitting existing wells offers a safe, cost-effective  
12 strategy to expand the monitoring network, improve data for water  
13 resource management, and protect public health.

14 5. It is therefore in the interest of the state of Iowa to  
15 expand the number of wells from which the Iowa geological survey  
16 can monitor groundwater levels through a targeted pilot program.

17 Sec. 2. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is to increase  
18 the number of wells from which the Iowa geological survey can  
19 monitor groundwater levels. Expanding monitoring capacity will  
20 provide better statewide data on Iowa's aquifers, strengthen  
21 water management decisions, and protect public health.

22 Sec. 3. PILOT PROGRAM.

23 1. a. There is appropriated from the general fund of the  
24 state to the department of natural resources for the fiscal year  
25 beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, the following  
26 amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the  
27 purposes designated:

28 For purposes of establishing and administering a groundwater  
29 monitoring expansion program created in this section, including  
30 but not limited to procurement of certified monitoring equipment;  
31 installation, calibration, and maintenance; telemetry and data  
32 integration; program evaluation; and reporting:

33 ..... \$ 100,000

34 b. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in this  
35 section that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of

1 the fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available for  
2 expenditure for the purposes designated until the close of the  
3 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2028, and ending June 30, 2029.

4 2. The program shall provide retrofitting for up to one  
5 hundred existing wells owned by businesses or other private  
6 entities with monitoring equipment under the Iowa groundwater  
7 monitoring pilot program. Participation shall be voluntary and  
8 require written consent of the property owner.

9 3. The Iowa geological survey shall provide technical  
10 guidance to the department of natural resources regarding site  
11 selection, installation specifications, and data evaluation. The  
12 Iowa geological survey shall prioritize wells that represent a  
13 diversity of aquifers and geographic regions to maximize the  
14 usefulness of the monitoring data.

15 4. Installations installed pursuant to this section shall  
16 meet the following standards:

17 a. Use sanitary well caps and sealed cable entry systems to  
18 prevent contamination.

19 b. Be performed by licensed well professionals in compliance  
20 with Iowa well construction and public health standards.

21 c. For all monitoring equipment installed in potable wells,  
22 be certified for or equivalent to national sanitation  
23 foundation/American national standards institute standards 61 and  
24 372 to ensure safety for drinking water.

25 5. Monitoring equipment shall, at a minimum, measure static  
26 water level and temperature, but submersible pressure transducers  
27 or equivalent devices proven for groundwater level monitoring  
28 shall be preferred. Telemetry may include long-range wide area  
29 network, cellular, or satellite systems as appropriate to site  
30 conditions, with emphasis on cost-effectiveness.

31 6. All monitoring data shall be securely transmitted to the  
32 Iowa geological survey for aggregation, storage, and analysis and  
33 shall be integrated into the Iowa geological survey's existing  
34 groundwater monitoring network. Well owners shall have access to  
35 their own monitoring data for water management and planning.

1 7. All costs of installation and equipment shall be covered  
2 by the program within the amount appropriated pursuant to  
3 subsection 1.

4 8. The department of natural resources, in consultation with  
5 the Iowa geological survey, shall submit a report to the general  
6 assembly by December 31, 2028, with the following information:

7 a. The number and location of wells retrofitted.

8 b. Data quality and system reliability.

9 c. Cost per installation.

10 d. Recommendations for statewide expansion of groundwater  
11 monitoring.

12 9. This section is repealed July 1, 2029.

13 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
14 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

15 EXPLANATION

16 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

17 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

18 This bill relates to groundwater monitoring in the state and  
19 establishes a pilot program.

20 The bill includes legislative findings recognizing the  
21 importance of Iowa's groundwater resources for drinking water,  
22 agriculture, and economic activity. The bill states there  
23 are an insufficient number of wells currently monitored by the  
24 Iowa geological survey (survey), and that retrofitting existing  
25 wells owned by businesses or other private entities with modern  
26 monitoring equipment is a cost-effective method to expand the  
27 groundwater monitoring network, improve data for water resource  
28 management, and protect public health. The bill states it is in  
29 the interest of the state of Iowa to expand the number of wells  
30 from which the survey may monitor groundwater levels through a  
31 pilot program.

32 The bill creates a groundwater monitoring expansion pilot  
33 program. The bill appropriates \$100,000 from the general fund  
34 of the state to the department of natural resources (department)  
35 for FY 2026-2027. Moneys appropriated to the department to

1 establish and administer a groundwater monitoring expansion pilot  
2 program may be used for the procurement of certified monitoring  
3 equipment; installation, calibration, and maintenance; telemetry  
4 and data integration; program evaluation; and reporting. The  
5 bill provides that any unencumbered or unobligated moneys  
6 remaining at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert but  
7 shall remain available for expenditure until the close of FY  
8 2028-2029.

9 The bill provides that the pilot program shall retrofit up to  
10 100 existing wells owned by businesses or other private entities  
11 with groundwater monitoring equipment. Participation in the  
12 program is voluntary and requires the written consent of the  
13 property owner. The survey is required to provide technical  
14 guidance to the department regarding site selection, installation  
15 specifications, and data evaluation. The survey is also required  
16 to prioritize wells that represent a diversity of aquifers and  
17 geographic regions to maximize the usefulness of the monitoring  
18 data.

19 The bill establishes standards for installations and  
20 monitoring equipment installed under the pilot program.

21 The bill requires all monitoring data to be securely  
22 transmitted to the survey for aggregation, storage, and analysis,  
23 and the data to be integrated into the survey's existing  
24 groundwater monitoring network. The bill authorizes well owners  
25 to have access to their own monitoring data for purposes of  
26 water management and planning. The bill directs all costs of  
27 installation and equipment under the pilot program to be covered  
28 within the amount appropriated for the program.

29 The bill requires the department, in consultation with the  
30 survey, to submit a report to the general assembly by December  
31 31, 2028. The report must include the number and location  
32 of wells retrofitted, an assessment of data quality and system  
33 reliability, the cost per installation, and recommendations for  
34 the potential statewide expansion of groundwater monitoring. The  
35 program is repealed July 1, 2029.

1 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

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