

**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,  
2 including the establishment of a pilot program, and  
3 including effective date provisions.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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  
5 groundwater levels in approximately sixty wells statewide,  
6 which is insufficient to represent the diversity of Iowa's  
7 aquifers.

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

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

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

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

25 Sec. 3. PILOT PROGRAM.

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

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

1 reporting:

2 ..... \$ 100,000

3 b. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in  
4 this section that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the  
5 close of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain  
6 available for expenditure for the purposes designated until the  
7 close of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2028, and ending  
8 June 30, 2029.

9 2. The program shall provide retrofitting for up to one  
10 hundred existing wells owned by businesses or other private  
11 entities with monitoring equipment under the Iowa groundwater  
12 monitoring pilot program. Participation shall be voluntary and  
13 require written consent of the property owner.

14 3. The Iowa geological survey shall provide technical  
15 guidance to the department of natural resources regarding site  
16 selection, installation specifications, and data evaluation.  
17 The Iowa geological survey shall prioritize wells that  
18 represent a diversity of aquifers and geographic regions to  
19 maximize the usefulness of the monitoring data.

20 4. Installations installed pursuant to this section shall  
21 meet the following standards:

22 a. Use sanitary well caps and sealed cable entry systems to  
23 prevent contamination.

24 b. Be performed by licensed well professionals in  
25 compliance with Iowa well construction and public health  
26 standards.

27 c. For all monitoring equipment installed in potable  
28 wells, be certified for or equivalent to national sanitation  
29 foundation/American national standards institute standards 61  
30 and 372 to ensure safety for drinking water.

31 5. Monitoring equipment shall, at a minimum, measure  
32 static water level and temperature, but submersible pressure  
33 transducers or equivalent devices proven for groundwater  
34 level monitoring shall be preferred. Telemetry may include  
35 long-range wide area network, cellular, or satellite

1 systems as appropriate to site conditions, with emphasis on  
2 cost-effectiveness.

3 6. All monitoring data shall be securely transmitted to the  
4 Iowa geological survey for aggregation, storage, and analysis  
5 and shall be integrated into the Iowa geological survey's  
6 existing groundwater monitoring network. Well owners shall  
7 have access to their own monitoring data for water management  
8 and planning.

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

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

16 a. The number and location of wells retrofitted.

17 b. Data quality and system reliability.

18 c. Cost per installation.

19 d. Recommendations for statewide expansion of groundwater  
20 monitoring.

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

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

24 EXPLANATION

25 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
26 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

27 This bill relates to groundwater monitoring in the state and  
28 establishes a pilot program.

29 The bill includes legislative findings recognizing the  
30 importance of Iowa's groundwater resources for drinking water,  
31 agriculture, and economic activity. The bill states there are  
32 an insufficient number of wells currently monitored by the Iowa  
33 geological survey (survey), and that retrofitting existing  
34 wells owned by businesses or other private entities with modern  
35 monitoring equipment is a cost-effective method to expand the

1 groundwater monitoring network, improve data for water resource  
2 management, and protect public health. The bill states it is  
3 in the interest of the state of Iowa to expand the number of  
4 wells from which the survey may monitor groundwater levels  
5 through a pilot program.

6 The bill creates a groundwater monitoring expansion pilot  
7 program. The bill appropriates \$100,000 from the general  
8 fund of the state to the department of natural resources  
9 (department) for FY 2026-2027. Moneys appropriated to the  
10 department to establish and administer a groundwater monitoring  
11 expansion pilot program may be used for the procurement of  
12 certified monitoring equipment; installation, calibration,  
13 and maintenance; telemetry and data integration; program  
14 evaluation; and reporting. The bill provides that any  
15 unencumbered or unobligated moneys remaining at the close of  
16 the fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available for  
17 expenditure until the close of FY 2028-2029.

18 The bill provides that the pilot program shall retrofit up  
19 to 100 existing wells owned by businesses or other private  
20 entities with groundwater monitoring equipment. Participation  
21 in the program is voluntary and requires the written consent  
22 of the property owner. The survey is required to provide  
23 technical guidance to the department regarding site selection,  
24 installation specifications, and data evaluation. The survey  
25 is also required to prioritize wells that represent a diversity  
26 of aquifers and geographic regions to maximize the usefulness  
27 of the monitoring data.

28 The bill establishes standards for installations and  
29 monitoring equipment installed under the pilot program.

30 The bill requires all monitoring data to be securely  
31 transmitted to the survey for aggregation, storage, and  
32 analysis, and the data to be integrated into the survey's  
33 existing groundwater monitoring network. The bill authorizes  
34 well owners to have access to their own monitoring data for  
35 purposes of water management and planning. The bill directs

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1 all costs of installation and equipment under the pilot program  
2 to be covered within the amount appropriated for the program.  
3 The bill requires the department, in consultation with the  
4 survey, to submit a report to the general assembly by December  
5 31, 2028. The report must include the number and location of  
6 wells retrofitted, an assessment of data quality and system  
7 reliability, the cost per installation, and recommendations for  
8 the potential statewide expansion of groundwater monitoring.  
9 The program is repealed July 1, 2029.  
10 The bill takes effect upon enactment.