

HB 1546 -- Ground Water Protection Fund

Sponsor: Moore

This bill defines "high-yield pump" as any water well pump system capable of producing in excess of 70 gallons of water per minute. The bill states that none of the four public members of the Well Installation Board can be employed by the state.

The bill requires pump installation contractors to obtain a permit to conduct business and requires all violations be referred to the prosecuting attorney for the county where the alleged violator resides. Any person providing information to the Department of Natural Resources identifying violators will remain anonymous, and the information provided will remain confidential absent a proper subpoena compelling the production of this information. The bill requires personnel of the Division of Geology and Land Survey to restrict distribution of information to the public on permitted contractors or their work. The bill requires that any public water supplier that fails to submit required information be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation, and the moneys be deposited in the Ground Water Protection Fund to be used for the sole purpose of field enforcement regarding abandoned wells. Any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium will not revert to the credit of the General Revenue Fund.