

HB 478 -- Watershed Improvement Districts

Sponsor: Wood

This bill changes the laws regarding the Upper White River Basin Watershed Improvement District and the establishment of a watershed improvement district in any county of the third classification. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Changes from 20% to 50% the number of property owners within a proposed district who can establish the district by petitioning the county's governing body;

(2) Allows counties within the district to require septic system maintenance and proof thereof every five years only for septic systems on property benefitted by the district. Currently, maintenance can be required on all septic systems within the county;

(3) Requires private laboratories performing wastewater analyses to be licensed by the Department of Natural Resources;

(4) Defines "resident of the county" for purposes of who may make a sewage complaint to the Department of Health and Senior Services; and

(5) Repeals the authority of counties to designate groundwater depletion areas within watershed improvement districts.