

SS SCS HB 617 -- WATERSHED DISTRICTS

This bill eliminates provisions allowing for the licensing of septic system maintenance providers within a watershed district and requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to investigate only sewage complaints received from an aggrieved party or adjacent landowner and not those received from any two residents of the county.

The governing body of any county included in the Upper White River Basin Watershed Improvement District is allowed to designate groundwater depletion areas within its county and may require well-volume monitoring of the areas. The bill allows any county which is a member of the improvement district to opt out of the district by:

- (1) Submitting a proposal to the qualified voters within the district upon the filing of a petition signed by at least 20% of the qualified voters of the county; or
- (2) Submitting a proposal to the qualified voters within the district upon the issuance of an order by the county commission.

Once the proposal is brought before the voters, a simple majority is needed for the county to successfully opt out. A county may seek re-inclusion in the same manner.