

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 2808

Relating to fees concerning wells

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Anderson

HB 2808 increases various fees administered by the Water Resources Department related to well construction, alteration, abandonment, and conversion.

The measure raises the start card fee for new well construction and modifications by 40%, with the last increase in 2021. The permit fee for landowners constructing wells on their property is increased by 10%, with the last increase in 2017. Water well driller examination fees are increased by 25%, and the licensing fees are raised by 10%, with the last increase to these fees in 2001.

The Well Program has been operating at a deficit. While revenue projections do not indicate a shortfall during the 2025-27 biennium, this is due to depletion of an existing fund balance. These fee increases are anticipated to generate \$920,000 in Other Funds revenue during the 2025-27 biennium and avert the reduction of 6.00 FTE in the 2027-29 biennium.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 2808 be reported out do pass.