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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2477**

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**State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session**

**By** House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives McCoy, Williams, Dickerson, Dunshee, Lantz, Hasegawa, Ormsby, McIntire, Kagi, Upthegrove, Chase, Linville, and Hunt)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/08.

1            AN ACT Relating to groundwater monitoring and assessment; amending  
2 RCW 43.27A.130; adding a new section to chapter 90.54 RCW; creating a  
3 new section; and recodifying RCW 43.27A.130.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.27A.130 and 1988 c 127 s 26 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7            (1) The department of ecology may make complete inventories of the  
8 state's water resources and enter into such agreements with the  
9 director of the United States geological survey as will ((insure))  
10 ensure that investigations and surveys are carried on in an economical  
11 manner.

12            (2) The department shall enhance the ambient groundwater monitoring  
13 and assessment program in order to accurately characterize long-term  
14 trends in the state's groundwater levels and water quality. The  
15 program may be improved in phases and must include but is not limited  
16 to:

17            (a) Standardizing methods, quality assurance, and data management  
18 practices for measuring groundwater levels and quality; and

1        (b) Creating a central database and migrating existing department  
2 of ecology and water resource inventory areas data to the central  
3 database by June 2009.

4        NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. (1) By June 30, 2011, the department of  
5 ecology shall conduct two voluntary pilot groundwater assessments in  
6 water resource inventory areas experiencing serious or critical  
7 withdrawals. One pilot groundwater assessment must be initiated in  
8 western Washington and one pilot groundwater assessment in eastern  
9 Washington.

10        (2) By June 30, 2009, the department of ecology shall prepare a  
11 data gap analysis that evaluates existing groundwater information on  
12 water levels and water quality within each water resource inventory  
13 area of the state. The analysis must include:

14        (a) Summarizing historic and current monitoring of ambient  
15 groundwater levels and water quality across the state;

16        (b) An evaluation of the completeness and quality of the data and  
17 conclusions produced from such monitoring;

18        (c) An identification of groundwater basins where water quantity  
19 levels are of concern but no monitoring is being conducted;

20        (d) An evaluation and recommendations for quality controls and  
21 other protocols associated with data collection and management;

22        (e) A compilation and summary of existing studies of groundwater  
23 levels, water quality, and monitoring activities; and

24        (f) Recommendations on the components necessary to establish a  
25 comprehensive, statewide ambient groundwater monitoring and assessment  
26 program and the funding necessary to implement the program.

27        NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. RCW 43.27A.130 is recodified as a section in  
28 chapter 90.54 RCW.

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