

**HB 2477 - DIGEST**

(SEE ALSO PROPOSED 1ST SUB)

Requires the department of ecology to improve the groundwater level ambient monitoring program in order to accurately characterize long-term trends in the state's groundwater resource quantity and evaluate aquifer water quality. The program must include: (1) Standardizing methods, quality assurance, and data management practices for measuring groundwater levels;

(2) Migrating existing data to a central database; and

(3) Expanding and supporting current ambient monitoring activities.

Directs the department of ecology by June 30, 2009 to conduct two pilot groundwater assessments in water resource inventory areas experiencing serious or critical withdrawals.

Requires that, by December 31, 2008, the department of ecology shall prepare a gap analysis that evaluates groundwater monitoring in the water resource inventory areas of the state.

Appropriates the sum of two million five hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the department of ecology for the purposes of this act.