

As Amended by House Committee

HOUSE BILL No. 2279

By Committee on Water

2-2

1 AN ACT concerning water; relating to groundwater management districts;
2 requiring groundwater management districts to submit annual reports to
3 the legislature; directing groundwater management districts to submit
4 conservation and stabilization plans to the chief engineer.
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. (a) Not later than January 31 of each year, the board of
8 each district shall submit to the house of representatives standing
9 committee on water, the house of representatives standing committee on
10 agriculture and natural resources, the senate standing committee on
11 agriculture and natural resources and any other appropriate committees,
12 and any successor committees, a written report on the finances and
13 activities of the district in the calendar year most recently audited. Such
14 report shall contain a detailed financial statement and a description of the
15 activities undertaken by the board and shall be prepared ~~according to~~
16 ~~generally-accepted accounting principles in accordance with K.S.A. 75-~~
17 ~~1120a, and amendments thereto.~~ If the most recently audited year is not
18 the previous calendar year, then a draft or unaudited report for the previous
19 calendar year shall also be submitted. A representative of the board shall
20 appear before the committee upon request.

21 (b) The financial statement included in the annual report shall
22 include, but not be limited to:

23 (1) An itemized list of all income and the source from which the
24 income was received, including any grants and interest income earned;

25 (2) an itemized list of all expenditures by the board; and

26 (3) an accounting of all assets currently held by the board.

27 (c) The annual report shall also include a detailed statement that
28 explains how the expenditures by the board served to further the
29 conservation and reduced consumptive use of groundwater, the
30 prevention of economic deterioration and the stabilization of agriculture or
31 otherwise supported implementation of the district's management program.

32 (d) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to article 10 of
33 chapter 82a of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.

34 Sec. 2. ~~(a) It is the intent of the legislature that the groundwater~~
35 ~~resources of the state be conserved and extended by local water users for~~
36 ~~the prevention of economic deterioration and stabilization of agriculture~~

Proposed Amendments to HB 2279
For Senate Committee on Agriculture and
Natural Resources
March 14, 2023
Prepared by: Office of Revisor of Statutes

~~pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1020, and amendments thereto. The legislature has provided tools for districts and local water users to achieve such goals with intensive groundwater use control areas designated pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1036, and amendments thereto, and local enhanced management areas established pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1041, and amendments thereto.~~

~~(b) (1) Not later than July 1, 2024, the board of each district shall identify all priority areas of concern within each district and set reasonable boundaries for each area of concern using data from the Kansas geological survey or any other source approved by the chief engineer. Subject to the approval of the chief engineer, the board of each district may request an extension of up to six months to identify such priority areas of concern upon good cause shown and upon any terms or conditions required by the chief engineer. Priority areas of concern include, but are not limited to, areas where:~~

~~(A) The estimated usable lifetime of groundwater is 50 years or less; or
(B) an unreasonable deterioration of the quality of groundwater is occurring.~~

~~(2) Priority areas of concern may also include areas where:~~

~~(A) Groundwater levels are declining or have declined excessively;
(B) the rate of withdrawal of groundwater equals or exceeds the rate of recharge;~~

~~(C) preventable waste of water is occurring or may occur; or
(D) an unreasonable deterioration of the quality of groundwater is occurring or may occur; or~~

~~(E) other areas identified by the board of a district and approved by the chief engineer.~~

~~(3) After the board of each district identifies priority areas of concern, the board shall submit a report to the chief engineer detailing the priority areas of concern, the nature of such concern and how the areas were identified and developed.~~

~~(4) (A) The board of each district shall conduct public education and outreach in each priority area so that the board may develop an action plan to reasonably address the identified concerns in each area based on input from the water right owners and users within the area that will support conservation, the prevention of economic deterioration and the stabilization of agriculture, based on the information available. Such action plan shall be incorporated into the district's management program and submitted to the chief engineer by July 1, 2026.~~

~~(B) Within 90 calendar days after a district submits an action plan, or any subsequent updates to such action plans as described in subparagraph (C), to the chief engineer, the chief engineer shall review such district's action plan and identified priority areas of concern. If~~

or similar aquifer conditions exist as evidenced by water level decline and water use data provided by the Kansas geological survey