



AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A STUDY OF DEPARTMENT SUSPENSION OR CLOSURE OF NEW GROUND WATER APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FOX HILLS-HELL CREEK AQUIFER; PROVIDING FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF GROUND WATER AVAILABILITY; PROVIDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Fox Hills-Hell Creek aquifer -- ground water study. (1) The bureau of mines and geology shall complete a feasibility study on ground water availability from the Fox Hills-Hell Creek aquifer in the department administrative boundaries 39E, 39FJ, 39G, 39H, 40D, 40E, 40P, 40Q, 40R, 40S, 42A, 42C, 42J, 42K, 42KJ, 42L, and 42M. The study may include:

- (a) the compilation and update of new geologic and hydrogeologic data;
- (b) a limited field collection of water levels and pressure for wells with historical data;
- (c) a preliminary water budget for the Fox Hills-Hell Creek aquifer; and
- (d) a preliminary model to evaluate the effects of pumping on water levels and pressure.

(2) The bureau shall report the progress and results of its study to the water policy interim committee established in 5-5-231. The committee shall consider the results of the study and make recommendations to the legislature for department suspension or closure of new ground water appropriations from the Fox Hills-Hell Creek aquifer.

Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 85, chapter 2, part 3, and the provisions of Title 85, chapter 2, part 3, apply to [section 1].

Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

Section 4. Termination. [This act] terminates June 30, 2027.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 935, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

HOUSE BILL NO. 935

INTRODUCED BY M. THIEL, B. CARTER, S. MANESS, R. MINER, G. OBLANDER, G. PARRY, J.
SCHILLINGER

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