



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3162

Introduced 2/2/2026, by Sen. Laura Ellman

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

415 ILCS 55/4

from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 7454

525 ILCS 45/5.4 new

Amends the Water Use Act of 1983. Provides that the Department of Agriculture shall consider water quantity in its procedures for restricting groundwater withdrawal under the Act and rules adopted under the Act. Requires the Department to adopt rules. Amends the Illinois Groundwater Protection Act to direct the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Groundwater to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2028, on the unsustainable depletion of aquifers in the State with a legislative proposal to remedy the problem.

LRB104 19432 BDA 32880 b

1 AN ACT concerning conservation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Groundwater Protection Act is
5 amended by changing Section 4 as follows:

6 (415 ILCS 55/4) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 7454)

7 Sec. 4. Interagency Coordinating Committee on Groundwater.

8 (a) There shall be established within State government an
9 interagency committee which shall be known as the Interagency
10 Coordinating Committee on Groundwater. The Committee shall be
11 composed of the Director, or his designee, of the following
12 agencies:

13 (1) The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, who
14 shall chair the Committee.

15 (2) The Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

16 (3) The Illinois Department of Public Health.

17 (4) The Office of Mines and Minerals within the
18 Department of Natural Resources.

19 (5) The Office of the State Fire Marshal.

20 (6) The Division of Water Resources of the Department
21 of Natural Resources.

22 (7) The Illinois Department of Agriculture.

23 (8) The Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

1 (9) The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety.

2 (b) The Committee shall meet not less than twice each
3 calendar year and shall:

4 (1) Review and coordinate the State's policy on
5 groundwater protection.

6 (2) Review and evaluate State laws, regulations and
7 procedures that relate to groundwater protection.

8 (3) Review and evaluate the status of the State's
9 efforts to improve the quality of the groundwater and of
10 the State enforcement efforts for protection of the
11 groundwater and make recommendations on improving the
12 State efforts to protect the groundwater.

13 (4) Recommend procedures for better coordination among
14 State groundwater programs and with local programs related
15 to groundwater protection.

16 (5) Review and recommend procedures to coordinate the
17 State's response to specific incidents of groundwater
18 pollution and coordinate dissemination of information
19 between agencies responsible for the State's response.

20 (6) Make recommendations for and prioritize the
21 State's groundwater research needs.

22 (7) Review, coordinate and evaluate groundwater data
23 collection and analysis.

24 (8) Beginning on January 1, 1990, report biennially to
25 the Governor and the General Assembly on groundwater
26 quality, quantity, and the State's enforcement efforts.

1 (c) The Chairman of the Committee shall propose a
2 groundwater protection regulatory agenda for consideration by
3 the Committee and the Council. The principal purpose of the
4 agenda shall be to systematically consider the groundwater
5 protection aspects of relevant federal and State regulatory
6 programs and to identify any areas where improvements may be
7 warranted. To the extent feasible, the agenda may also serve
8 to facilitate a more uniform and coordinated approach toward
9 protection of groundwaters in Illinois. Upon adoption of the
10 final agenda by the Committee, the Chairman of the Committee
11 shall assign a lead agency and any support agencies to prepare
12 a regulatory assessment report for each item on the agenda.
13 Each regulatory assessment report shall specify the nature of
14 the groundwater protection provisions being implemented and
15 shall evaluate the results achieved therefrom. Special
16 attention shall be given to any preventive measures being
17 utilized for protection of groundwaters. The reports shall be
18 completed in a timely manner. After review and consideration
19 by the Committee, the reports shall become the basis for
20 recommending further legislative or regulatory action.

21 (d) No later than January 1, 1992, the Interagency
22 Coordinating Committee on Groundwater shall provide a
23 comprehensive status report to the Governor and the General
24 Assembly concerning implementation of this Act.

25 (e) The Committee shall consider findings and
26 recommendations that are provided by the Council, and respond

1 in writing regarding such matters. The Chairman of the
2 Committee shall designate a liaison person to serve as a
3 facilitator of communications with the Council.

4 (f) The Committee shall prepare a report, in consultation
5 with the Office of Water Resources of the Department of
6 Natural Resources, the Bureau of Water of the Environmental
7 Protection Agency, the Department of Public Health, the
8 Department of Agriculture, and the Illinois State Water Survey
9 of the Prairie Research Institute at the University of
10 Illinois. The report shall include detailed information on the
11 unsustainable depletion of aquifers in the State and propose
12 legislation, including, but not limited to, amendments to the
13 Water Use Act of 1983, to establish a single statewide
14 permitting program for groundwater withdrawal. This program
15 shall regulate both the quality and quantity of groundwater to
16 prevent unsustainable aquifer depletion while improving,
17 expanding, and simplifying the current patchwork of State
18 groundwater regulations administered by multiple agencies. On
19 or before January 1, 2028, the Committee shall submit copies
20 of the report to the General Assembly, as provided in Section
21 3.1 of the General Assembly Organization Act, and to the
22 Governor.

23 (Source: P.A. 102-1071, eff. 6-10-22.)

24 Section 10. The Water Use Act of 1983 is amended by adding
25 Section 5.4 as follows:

1 (525 ILCS 45/5.4 new)

2 Sec. 5.4. Groundwater withdrawals. The Department shall
3 consider water quantity in its procedures for restricting
4 groundwater withdrawal under this Act and rules adopted under
5 this Act. The Department shall adopt rules implementing and
6 administering this Section.