

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/17/03 H3/26/03 H4/3/03 S4/9/03*

2 84th General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2003

HOUSE BILL 2505

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5 By: Representative Bradford

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION  
10 AND MANAGEMENT ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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## Subtitle

13 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS GROUNDWATER  
14 PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT ACT.

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 15-22-904 is amended to add an additional  
20 subdivision to read as follows:

21 (12) Beginning with the water year commencing October 1, 2004, require  
22 that the annual water use reports submitted pursuant to § 15-22-215 and § 15-  
23 22-302 be accurate and submitted to the commission under penalty of perjury.

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25 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 15-22-905 is amended to read as follows:  
26 15-22-905. Powers of commission - Limitations.

27 The following provisions shall limit the Arkansas Soil and Water  
28 Conservation Commission's powers under this subchapter:

29 (1)(A) There will be no reduction or limitation of the withdrawal of  
30 groundwater from existing wells in an alluvial aquifer used for agricultural  
31 irrigation for which a water right is grandfathered under the provisions of §  
32 15-22-910(a)(1) unless alternative surface supplies are available or can be  
33 made available at a cost to the person no greater than the operating cost of  
34 the person's wells within the critical area, including depreciation costs  
35 over the life of the well.

36 (B) There shall be no reduction or limitation of the withdrawal



1 of groundwater from existing wells in a sustaining aquifer used for  
2 agricultural irrigation for which a water right is grandfathered under the  
3 provisions of § 15-22-910(a)(1) unless alternative surface supplies are  
4 available;

5 (2)(A) In an alluvial aquifer, there will be no reduction or  
6 limitation of the withdrawal of groundwater from wells for which a water  
7 right has been issued under § 15-22-910 and for which the person holding the  
8 right can demonstrate:

9 (i) A reduction of twenty percent (20%) of his or her use  
10 of groundwater by either institution of water conservation measures or  
11 conversion to surface supplies. The demonstrated reduction must be based on  
12 the use reported in water year 1986 or later; or

13 (ii) The implementation of a water conservation plan  
14 employing generally accepted water conservation practices approved by the  
15 commission.

16 (B) In sustaining aquifers, the Arkansas Soil and Water  
17 Conservation Commission may consider voluntary reductions, water use  
18 efficiencies, and implementation of water conservation measures in  
19 determining limitations or reduction of withdrawals;

20 (3) There will be no regulation of the withdrawal of groundwater from  
21 existing or proposed wells which have a maximum potential flow rate of less  
22 than fifty thousand (50,000) gallons per day;

23 (4) There shall be no regulation of the withdrawals of groundwater  
24 from individual household wells used exclusively for domestic use;

25 (5) There shall be no regulation of the withdrawal of groundwater from  
26 existing or proposed wells by electric generating plants or steel mills;

27 ~~(5)(6)~~ Replacement wells:

28 (A)(i) The owner of an existing well may construct a replacement  
29 well after abandoning the existing well.

30 (ii) To transfer a water right to a replacement well the  
31 owner need only submit to the commission notice of construction of a  
32 replacement well stating the location and ownership of the original and  
33 replacement wells and other relevant information required by the commission.

34 (B) The original well must be converted to a nonregulated use or  
35 plugged in the manner prescribed by the commission; and

36 ~~(6)(7)~~ Marketers of bottled water and public water supply systems

1 *shall at no time be restricted in the place of use of groundwater.*

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*/s/ Bradford*

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