

HB20-1069

ADD WATER WELL INSPECTORS IDENTIFY HIGH-RISK WELLS

Concerning the inspection of water wells

- The bill requires the state engineer to employ a minimum of 4 water well inspectors in the state's water well inspection program.
- The bill requires the state board of water well construction and pump installation contractors, on or before November 1, 2020, to promulgate rules for identifying high-risk water wells that should be prioritized for inspection. Thereafter, the state engineer shall use the rules to identify high-risk water wells and shall prioritize the inspection of high-risk water wells.
- The bill clarifies that money in the well inspection cash fund shall be appropriated to and expended by the state engineer only for the well inspection program.

CURRENT PROBLEMS THIS BILL SOLVES:

- Only three well inspectors currently; **bill would increase it to five total inspectors.**
- In 2018, roughly 4,000 new wells were constructed; of those, only 310 wells were inspected. **Bill would expand the number of wells inspected each year.**
- In 2018 only 7% of wells considered high-risk were inspected; **the bill would require that high-risk wells be prioritized.**
- No system or rules to identify or prioritize high-risk water wells in place; **bill would require the development of rules.**
- Costs associated with new rules and additional personnel will be covered by an increase in well inspection application. **There will be no cost to taxpayers.**