



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 314

Chairperson: LeRoy Louden
Committee: Natural Resources
Date of Hearing: January 31, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The purpose of this bill is to expand the definition of water well to include those excavations where a pump or other device is installed for the purpose of withdrawing water for irrigation.

The current definition of water well for the purposes of the water well registration act is limited to only those excavations made for the purpose of extracting water. However, some individuals do install pumps in existing excavations which reach the aquifer, such as sand pits, and use the water to irrigate or for other purposes. Even though the water in these excavations is ground water, these water use systems do not have to be registered as wells under the current law since they were not dug for the purpose of extracting water. Since they are not required to register as wells, they do not have to honor spacing requirements or restrictions on new wells, evade well metering imposed by a natural resources district, Ground Water Management Act restrictions, and generally impair the effectiveness of integrated management plans for water use.

This bill does not interfere with the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Licensing Act.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator LeRoy J. Louden