

ADH BILL ANALYSIS FORM

Date Filed:

Sponsor(s): 41 representatives & 12 senators

As amended:

Check one of the following:

- No impact on the center (explain briefly below).
- No impact as written. Monitor for changes and/or amendments.
- Center is affected by the bill as written and must monitor.**
- Center is affected by the amendment as written and must monitor.

1. Short Title:

An Act to amend the laws pertaining to the promulgation of water quality standards

2. Analysis:

The act proposes removal of the domestic water supply designated use for all waters of the state either not currently in use or expected to be in use as supply. It exempts most surface waters from meeting current water quality criteria for chlorides (salts), sulfate, and total dissolved solids.

3. Fiscal Impact (if any):

If enacted, if salt concentrations are higher in current (and future) source waters at public supply intakes, treatment costs for public water systems could increase dramatically. Public water systems might also need to select alternate source waters, also an expensive undertaking.

4. Bill Strengths:

5. Bill Weaknesses:

ADH-Engineering source water assessment delineations of protection areas are not a consideration of this act. Very limited areas of streams and lakes will be designated for this use. The lists to document this protected use referred to in the act do not currently exist. Under the act, ADEQ is to be tasked with keeping a list of current domestic water supply intakes, and ANRC/State Water Plan for future domestic supply water sources. No other details are presented about these. Apparently no ADH input is to be sought or considered in the development of these lists.

6. Talking Points:

APCEC Reg. 2 (ADEQ) already provides adequate opportunity for the removal of site-specific designated use—including that for domestic water supply—supported by “use attainability assessment (UAA)” under Reg. 2.306-308. ADH-Engineering reviews each of the UAAs when proposed to ensure that no harm will be done to source waters. The act removes ADH as a

stakeholder in this process.

7. Groups in Favor of Bill:

Arkansas Environmental Federation

8. Groups Opposed:

ADEQ, US EPA Region 6, Beaver Water District & other public water systems throughout the state, watershed groups.

Center Assigned: CLPH

Content Expert (Name/Center/Branch/Phone)

Darcia Routh, P.G. for Jeff Stone, Director/CLPH/ Env. Health/Engineering 501-661-2856

Form completed by: D. Routh **Date:** 3/12/13