

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2424

As Amended by House Committee on Water

Brief*

HB 2424, as amended, would authorize licensure and registration of pump installation contractors (installer) in the state and change requirements for water well contractors (contractors).

Purpose of the Kansas Groundwater Exploration and Protection Act (Section 2)

The bill would add provisions to the Kansas Groundwater Exploration and Protection Act (Act) for purposes of licensing and regulation installers. The bill would state the Act would provide for the establishment of standards for pump installation and repair, and it would require each installer to keep and transmit a pump information report to the Secretary of Health and Environment (Secretary).

Definitions (Section 3)

The bill would define “pump installation contractor” as any person who installs, repairs, or maintains well pumps, pitless well adapters, or units and pumping equipment at the water well location, including all wiring and all construction or repair involved in making entrance to the water well that involves breaking the sanitary well seal.

The bill would exclude from the definition of “pump installation contractor” the following persons:

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

- A person while in the act of installing a pump on land that is owned by such person and is used by the person for domestic uses at the person's place of abode, but only when the pump is installed in compliance with prescribed minimum installation standards as provided in the Act; or
- A person who installs a pump for the installer at the installer's direction and under the installer's supervision.

The bill would also add to the definition for "water well contractor" to include any person who plugs a water well.

The bill would state that a "water well contractor" does not include a person while in the act of constructing, reconstructing, plugging, or treating a water well on land that is owned by a person and is used by that person for domestic uses at their place of abode, but only when the well is constructed, reconstructed, plugged, or treated in compliance with prescribed minimum well standards as provided for in the Act.

The bill would also make technical and conforming amendments, including moving the definition of "domestic uses" into alphabetical order.

Administration (Sections 4-5)

The bill would modify the continuing authority of the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations to establish reasonable license fees for water well contractors (contractors) and for each drill right operated by or for the contractor and to authorize the Secretary to establish the fees annually by rules and regulations. The fee could not exceed \$100.

The bill would authorize the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations on an annual basis to establish reasonable

license fees for contractors. The fee could not exceed \$100. The license fee would not apply to contractors. The bill would also authorize the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations on an annual basis for contractors.

The bill would require the established fees to be an amount that when taken together with any other available funds will allow for the proper administration of the Act.

The bill would require each person desiring to engage in the business of an installer in Kansas to make an initial application for an installer license to the Secretary. The person would be required to provide information on forms as required by the Secretary. The Secretary would charge an application fee as established by rules and regulations for the filing of the initial application. The bill would prohibit the Secretary from acting upon any application until the application fee has been charged.

Any fees collected by the Secretary would be remitted to the State Treasurer and deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the Water Program Fund.

The bill would also authorize the Secretary to administer an examination to installer license applicants and licensees, and deny, modify, revoke, or suspend any license pursuant to the Act after providing notice and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act.

Qualifications for Examinations (Section 6)

The bill would add to the required qualifications for each candidate for a contractor examination and add required qualifications for candidates for an installer examination, which would include:

- Knowledge of current drilling methods, including, but not limited to, cable-tool, hollow-stem auger,

mud-rotary, direct-push, sonic, air rotary, and sand bailing;

- Familiarity with:
 - Pump installation, replacement and repair for water wells, including any necessary components of the water well system; and
 - Installation of water treatment devices, water pressure tanks, pressure switches, pressure relief valves, and pitless well adapters or units for water wells: and
- For contractor candidates, a minimum of two years of experience working under a licensed contractor.

For installer candidates, the bill would require additional qualifications, including:

- Familiarity with Kansas water laws and rules and regulations that relate to water well construction, reconstruction, and treatment as adopted by the Secretary; and
- A minimum of one year of experience working under a licensed installer.

Relicensing (Section 7)

The bill would require a person whose contractor or installer license has been revoked and who wishes to become relicensed to submit an application in the manner prescribed by the bill.

Revocation of Licenses (Section 8)

The bill would authorize the Secretary to revoke a license issued under the Act when a licensee voluntarily relinquishes a license.

***Record Requirements for Water Well Contractors
(Section 9)***

The bill would require every contractor to keep a careful and accurate record of each water well that the contractor constructs, reconstructs, or plugs, and would require the contractor to submit those records within 30 days of the completion of constructing, reconstructing, or plugging the water well.

The bill would require the record to include the following information:

- Name and address of the landowner and the location and legal description of the well, including the latitude and longitude of the well;
- Description and depth of any encountered geological materials;
- Depth at which water is encountered, if possible;
- Depth and diameter of the borehole;
- If a gravel pack is used, the type of material, size of particles, and depth of the gravel pack;
- Depth and thickness of grout or other sealing material, if applicable;
- Blank casing information, including the length, outside diameter, wall thickness, and type of material of such blank casing, if applicable;
- Screen information, including the length, outside diameter, slot or perforation size and type, wall thickness, and type of material of the screen, if applicable;
- Casing joint or connection type, if applicable;

- Water level reached when pumped at the designated rate, including the rate of pumping and amount of time pumped, if applicable;
- Yield of the water well in gallons per minute or gallons per hour, if applicable;
- Information on any pump installed if applicable, including the date that the pump was installed, the type of pump, horsepower, voltage, pump capacity in gallons per minute, and the drop or column pipe diameter and length;
- Intended use of the well water;
- Certification that the well was disinfected, if applicable;
- Identification of any permit required for the water well, including any state, county, or municipal permit;
- Name and signature of the water well contractor and license number or the name and phone number of the individual as specified in law;
- Date that the construction, reconstruction, or plugging, as applicable, was completed; and
- Any other data the Secretary reasonably requires.

The bill would also require a water quality analysis of any well to be provided to the Secretary, upon request, within 60 days after completion of each well unless the Secretary grants an extension. If an extension is granted, the bill would require the analysis to be provided to the Secretary within the extended period of time. The bill would require a Kansas-certified laboratory to conduct the water quality analysis.

The bill would require the Secretary to transmit each well record and a copy of the water quality analysis to the

Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) to be kept on file. The bill would require KGS to make each transmitted record and analysis publicly available.

Record Keeping (New Section 1)

The bill would require any installer licensed under the Act to maintain a record of each pump installed and provide a record within 30 days after installation to the Secretary in a form required by the Secretary.

The bill would require the following information to be included in the record:

- Name and address of the landowner and the location and legal description of the well, including the latitude and longitude of the well;
- Intended use of the well water;
- Pump information, including the date the pump was installed, the type of pump installed, horsepower, voltage, pump capacity in gallons per minute, and the drop pipe diameter and length; and
- Any other data as the Secretary reasonably requires.

This section of the bill would be part of and supplemental to the Act.

Unplugged Abandoned Water Wells (Section 10)

The bill would state that, notwithstanding any provision of KSA 82a-1213, an unplugged abandoned water well existing on or before July 1, 1973, that does not pose a threat to public health, safety, or the environment would not be required to be plugged.

Violation of the Act (Section 11)

The bill would reword provisions regarding violation of the Act by changing “willfully” to “knowingly” for any person who knowingly violates any provisions of the Act or any rules and regulations adopted under the Act. The bill would also include installers regarding violation of the Act.

Deposit of Penalties (Section 12)

The bill would change the fund into which penalties would be deposited, from the State General Fund to the Water Program Management Fund.

Technical and Conforming Amendments (Throughout)

The bill would make technical and conforming amendments throughout the Act.

Background

The bill was pre-filed for introduction on January 8, 2026, by Representative White.

[Note: A version of this bill was introduced during the 2025 Session. The bill, HB 2095, was referred to the House Committee on Water on January 27, 2025, and rereferred to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on January 29, 2025. The House Committee recommended the bill be passed as amended on February 18, 2025. The bill was stricken from the House Calendar by Rule 1507 on February 20, 2025.]

House Committee on Water

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by the Director of the Bureau of Water, KDHE,

and a past president of the Kansas Groundwater Association. The proponents stated that Kansas requires water well drillers to be licensed, but does not require licensing for those individuals that install water well pumps. As groundwater provides drinking water for 85.0 percent of Kansas residents, and approximately 1.2 million people rely on public water systems in the state, it is important to ensure those installing water well pumps are doing so safely and correctly.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment.

Opponent testimony was provided by a private citizen, who stated that more regulation of private businesses will lead to losing drillers and pump contractors, especially in rural areas. The business is costly to enter already, and adding additional fees will not grow the industry.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Livestock Association, who noted that the Association has not received any complaints about water pump installation contractors.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Cap the annual fees to not exceed \$100;
- Require the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations on an annual, rather than biennial, basis to establish reasonable license fees; and
- Make two technical changes.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, KDHE estimates that enactment of the bill would increase agency fee revenues by approximately \$41,000 in FY 2028 for new applications and licensures, examination fees, pump form fees, and potential civil penalties. The agency estimates revenues of \$28,000 in future fiscal years, noting that while there would be renewal fees, there would not be as many initial applications and examinations. The estimate assumes that rules and regulations would be revised for implementation by FY 2028.

KDHE reports that any additional workload related to the new license would be handled within existing resources. The revenue would be utilized to administer the provisions of the Kansas Groundwater Exploration and Protection Act.

The Office of Judicial Administration states enactment of the bill could increase the number of cases filed in district courts because it would create a new crime. This could result in more time spent by judicial and nonjudicial personnel processing, researching, and hearing these cases. Since violations carry a class B misdemeanor penalty, there could also be more supervision of offenders required by court services officers. The Office estimates enactment of the bill could result in the collection of docket fees and supervision fees in cases filed under provisions of the bill. The agency notes all fees and penalties collected would be deposited in the Water Program Fund. The agency was unable to determine a total fiscal effect.

The Office of Administrative Hearings could not estimate a total fiscal effect but anticipates that any additional workload related to passage of the bill could be handled within existing resources.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Water; Kansas Department of Health and Environment; pump installation; water well contractors; licenses; fees