

**** Bill No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the *****

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act creating a water policy subcommittee of the environmental quality council; and amending section 85-2-105, MCA."

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

Section 1. Section 85-2-105, MCA, is amended to read:

"85-2-105. Environmental quality council -- water policy duties. (1) The environmental quality council shall meet as often as necessary, including during the interim between sessions, to perform the duties specified within this section.

(2) On a continuing basis, the environmental quality council shall:

(a) advise the legislature on the adequacy of the state's water policy and on important state, regional, national, and international developments that affect Montana's water resources;

(b) oversee the policies and activities of the department, other state executive agencies, and other state institutions as those policies and activities affect the water resources of the state;

(c) assist with interagency coordination related to Montana's water resources; and

(d) communicate with the public on matters of water policy

as well as the water resources of the state.

(3) On a regular basis, the environmental quality council shall:

(a) analyze and comment on the state water plan required by 85-1-203, when filed by the department;

(b) analyze and comment on the report of the status of the state's renewable resource grant and loan program required by 85-1-621, when filed by the department;

(c) analyze and comment on water-related research undertaken by any state agency, institution, college, or university;

(d) analyze, verify, and comment on the adequacy of and information contained in the water information system maintained by the natural resource information system under 90-15-305; and

(e) report to the legislature as provided in 5-11-210.

(4) To perform the duties specified in this section, the environmental quality council shall form a standing water policy subcommittee.

(5) The legislative services division shall provide staff assistance to the environmental quality council to carry out its water policy duties."

{ Internal References to 85-2-105: None. }

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{ Name : Joe P. Kolman
Title : Research Analyst
Agency : LSD
Phone : 444-9280
E-Mail : jkolman@mt.gov }