

## HOUSE BILL No. 2279

By Committee on Water

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1 AN ACT concerning water; relating to groundwater management districts;  
2 requiring groundwater management districts to submit annual reports to  
3 the legislature; directing groundwater management districts to submit  
4 conservation and stabilization plans to the chief engineer.  
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6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. (a) Not later than January 31 of each year, the board of  
8 each district shall submit to the house of representatives standing  
9 committee on water, the house of representatives standing committee on  
10 agriculture and natural resources, the senate standing committee on  
11 agriculture and natural resources and any other appropriate committees,  
12 and any successor committees, a written report on the finances and  
13 activities of the district in the calendar year most recently audited. Such  
14 report shall contain a detailed financial statement and a description of the  
15 activities undertaken by the board and shall be prepared according to  
16 generally accepted accounting principles. If the most recently audited year  
17 is not the previous calendar year, then a draft or unaudited report for the  
18 previous calendar year shall also be submitted. A representative of the  
19 board shall appear before the committee upon request.

20 (b) The financial statement included in the annual report shall  
21 include, but not be limited to:

22 (1) An itemized list of all income and the source from which the  
23 income was received, including any grants and interest income earned;

24 (2) an itemized list of all expenditures by the board; and

25 (3) an accounting of all assets currently held by the board.

26 (c) The annual report shall also include a detailed statement that  
27 explains how the expenditures by the board served to further the  
28 conservation of groundwater, the prevention of economic deterioration and  
29 the stabilization of agriculture or otherwise supported implementation of  
30 the district's management program.

31 (d) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to article 10 of  
32 chapter 82a of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.

33 Sec. 2. (a) It is the intent of the legislature that the groundwater  
34 resources of the state be conserved and extended by local water users for  
35 the prevention of economic deterioration and stabilization of agriculture  
36 pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1020, and amendments thereto. The legislature has

1 provided tools for districts and local water users to achieve such goals with  
2 intensive groundwater use control areas designated pursuant to K.S.A.  
3 82a-1036, and amendments thereto, and local enhanced management areas  
4 established pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1041, and amendments thereto.

5 (b) (1) Not later than July 1, 2024, the board of each district shall  
6 identify all areas of concern within each district and set reasonable  
7 boundaries for each area of concern using data from the Kansas geological  
8 survey or any other source approved by the chief engineer. Areas of  
9 concern include, but are not limited to, areas where:

10 (A) Groundwater levels are declining or have declined excessively;

11 (B) the rate of withdrawal of groundwater equals or exceeds the rate  
12 of recharge;

13 (C) preventable waste of water is occurring or may occur; or

14 (D) an unreasonable deterioration of the quality of groundwater is  
15 occurring or may occur.

16 (2) (A) The board of each district shall conduct public education and  
17 outreach in each area so that the board may develop an action plan to  
18 address the identified concerns in each area based on input from the water  
19 right owners and users within the area that will support conservation, the  
20 prevention of economic deterioration and the stabilization of agriculture,  
21 based on the information available. Such action plan shall be incorporated  
22 into the district's management program and submitted to the chief engineer  
23 by July 1, 2026.

24 (B) Within 90 calendar days after a district submits an action plan to  
25 the chief engineer, the chief engineer shall review such district's action  
26 plan. If such plan is approved by the chief engineer, the chief engineer  
27 shall implement any action plan that requires action from the chief  
28 engineer. Once a district's action plan has been approved by the chief  
29 engineer, the board of each district shall implement the action plan as soon  
30 as practicable.

31 (C) Each action plan required by this section shall be reviewed every  
32 five years at the same time and in the same manner that the board reviews  
33 its management program pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-1029, and amendments  
34 thereto. Following such review, the board shall either reaffirm the action  
35 plan or propose that it be revised. If the board proposes to revise an action  
36 plan, then the board shall follow the same procedure towards adoption of a  
37 revised action plan as described in this section for an original action plan.

38 (c) If a board fails to identify areas of concern within a district or to  
39 submit a management program that includes a plan to address the concerns  
40 in each area identified, or if a board submits a plan that fails to adequately  
41 address the problems within each area identified, the chief engineer may  
42 take corrective actions under the authority granted to the chief engineer  
43 pursuant to the Kansas water appropriations act and Kansas groundwater

1 management act.

2 (d) Upon request of a board, the chief engineer shall review the  
3 activities previously undertaken by the board to determine if the board has  
4 already complied with some or all of the requirements of this section.

5 (e) The Kansas department of agriculture, including the division of  
6 water resources and the division of conservation, chief engineer, Kansas  
7 water office, Kansas department of health and environment, state  
8 corporation commission, university of Kansas, Kansas geological survey,  
9 Kansas state university, Kansas state university extension system and local  
10 conservation districts shall provide assistance and support to each board as  
11 is reasonably necessary for the achievement of the goals set forth in this  
12 section.

13 (f) Beginning on January 15, 2025, the board of each district shall  
14 submit an annual written report to the house of representatives standing  
15 committee on water, the house of representatives standing committee on  
16 agriculture and natural resources and the senate standing committee on  
17 agriculture and natural resources, and any other appropriate committees,  
18 and any successor committees, summarizing any activities undertaken  
19 pursuant to this section in the previous calendar year. A representative of  
20 the board shall appear before the committee upon request.

21 (g) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to article 10 of  
22 chapter 82a of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.

23 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
24 publication in the statute book.