

HB 2711 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 3/8, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Imposes statewide moratorium on hydraulic fracturing until 2026. Defines "hydraulic fracturing" and excludes from definition any drilling required for natural gas storage wells, geothermal wells or coal bed methane extraction wells. Declares emergency; Act takes effect upon passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Extends moratorium until December 31, 2027. Specifies that only coal bed methane extraction wells that were in existence as of the effective date of the Act are excluded from definition of hydraulic fracturing.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

BACKGROUND:

Hydraulic fracturing is a drilling technique that forces a mixture of liquids and other material under high pressure through rock in order to create or expand fractures in the rock. The fractured rock can release crude oil, natural gas or geothermal energy that would not otherwise be accessible using conventional drilling techniques. Although the technology has existed since the 1960s, in recent years the use of hydraulic fracturing in combination with advances in horizontal drilling has led to a major increase in U.S. oil and natural gas production.

House Bill 2711 would impose a statewide moratorium on hydraulic fracturing until 2026.