

**HB 2711 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On Energy and Environment**

**Carrier:** Rep. Helm

---

**Action Date:** 04/12/17  
**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)  
**Vote:** 5-4-0-0  
**Yeas:** 5 - Barnhart, Helm, Holvey, Marsh, Power  
**Nays:** 4 - Bentz, Johnson, Reschke, Smith DB  
**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Imposes statewide moratorium on hydraulic fracturing until 2027. Defines "hydraulic fracturing" and excludes from definition any drilling required for natural gas storage wells, geothermal wells or coal bed methane extraction wells in existence as of effective date of Act. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Existing areas of state that have coal bed methane extraction wells
- Concerns including seismic activity and contamination of ground water
- Opportunity to support Common School Fund through increased natural gas production
- Evolution of hydraulic fracturing technology

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

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.

**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 2711A would impose a statewide moratorium on hydraulic fracturing until 2027.