

HB 1691 & SB 981 both seek to strip DNR's authority to protect Missouri's waters by changing the state's definition of "Waters of the State." This would weaken protections of groundwater and wetlands. Don't let industry influence the safety of Missouri's water.

Why are these bills being proposed?

HB 1691 and SB 981 attempt to make Missouri's "Waters of the State" definition the same as the national "Waters of the U.S." However, "Waters of the State" definitions are intended to cover more specific bodies than "Waters of the U.S."

Industry interests are seeking to weaken the "Waters of the State" definition to avoid DNR's protections.



What does this mean for Missourians?

By limiting the definition of waters of the state, these bills would allow industries to pollute many wetlands and groundwater without permits or repercussions. SB 981 would even allow industries to pollute **hazardous waste** into these waterbodies!

Groundwater is the drinking water source for 1/2 of Missourians. These bills increase the risk of groundwater contamination, leaving communities to bear the cost of groundwater filtration and health risks from contaminated water.

Wetlands are crucial for flood mitigation, and stripping DNR of authority to protect wetlands can only further risk harm to communities in floodplains and near rivers and streams.

Hunting and fishing are also threatened by weaker protections to these waters, putting billions of dollars of revenue in jeopardy.

This language would also create **confusion surrounding Lakes and Ponds**, as it states that these bodies must have a "continuous surface connection to [another surface waterbody]." This cannot, definitionally, apply to Lakes or Ponds, as they are fully independent water bodies.

**Keep Missouri's "Waters of the State" definition as is. Don't let industry off the hook for preventing pollution in our state's waterbodies.
Vote "NO" on HB 1691 and SB 981!**