

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB2053</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>Introduced</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>5170</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Hardin</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>2/11/2023</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>Please see previous summary of this measure</b>

**Research Analysis**

HB 2053, as introduced, provides that a party protesting a groundwater permit solely on basis of category of beneficial use, industry, or entity applying, will not be considered an interested party and may not present evidence and testimony in support of their protest.

Any appeal of an approved permit based on the category of beneficial use, industry, or entity applying shall be dismissed, and deemed frivolous. The court may impose sanctions against any such appellant or appellant's attorney.

Further, the measure provides that during the application process for a groundwater permit, only the Department of Environmental Quality or Department of Agriculture can determine whether waste will occur, and the decision cannot be protested during the Oklahoma Water Resources Board's hearing on the application. A court may not order the Water Resources Board to hold a hearing over the determination of waste.

If the Water Resources Board's final approval is appealed, the applicant may take and use groundwater while the appeals are pending.

Prepared By: Emily Byrne

**Fiscal Analysis**

The measure is currently under review and impact information will be completed.

Prepared By: House Fiscal Staff

**Other Considerations**

None.