

**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>PCS</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>7329</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Hardin</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>2/13/2023</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Research Analysis**

The proposed committee substitute for HB 2053 provides that a party protesting a groundwater permit solely on basis of the 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 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**

HB2053 makes some changes to the permitting process for use of groundwater. Neither the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Department of Agriculture, nor the Department of Environmental Quality believe these changes will create a fiscal impact for their respective agencies. Therefore, there is no fiscal impact to the state.

Prepared By: Mariah Searock, House Fiscal Staff

**Other Considerations**

None.