

The House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment offers the following substitute to HB 1206:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 3 of Chapter 5 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to water well standards, so as to change certain provisions relating to the
3 requirement for a water well contractor's license and drilling under the direction of a
4 professional geologist or engineer; to change certain provisions relating to standards for wells
5 and geothermal boreholes; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 3 of Article 3 of Chapter 5 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
9 relating to water well standards, is amended by adding a new paragraph to Code Section
10 12-5-122, relating to definitions, as follows:

11 "(17.1) 'Geothermal borehole' means any hole in the earth which is drilled for the purpose
12 of installing piping for heating and air conditioning systems through which water,
13 antifreeze, water mixtures, freon, or other media are circulated to exchange heat with the
14 earth for the purpose of heating or cooling, or both."

15 **SECTION 2.**

16 Said part is further amended by revising Code Section 12-5-125, relating to the requirement
17 for a water well contractor's license and drilling under the direction of a professional
18 geologist or engineer, as follows:

19 "12-5-125.

20 Except as provided in subsection (f) of Code Section 12-5-127, no person shall drill a water
21 well or geothermal borehole without first having a water well contractor's license issued
22 by the council. No person, including licensed water well contractors, shall drill any ~~other~~
23 kind of well, borehole, or corehole, other than a water well or geothermal borehole, unless
24 such person is acting under the direction of a professional geologist or a professional
25 engineer."

26 **SECTION 3.**

27 Said part is further amended by revising paragraph (5) of Code Section 12-5-134, relating
28 to standards for wells and boreholes, by substituting a period for the semicolon at the end of
29 subparagraph (F) and by adding a new subparagraph to read as follows:

30 "(G) Geothermal boreholes that penetrate into ground water shall be grouted from
31 bottom to top by forced injection using impervious grouting material designed for such
32 purpose. Geothermal boreholes shall be constructed or located at a safe distance from
33 any potential source of contamination. The minimum safe distance from the following
34 sources of contamination shall be:

35 (i) Ten feet from sewer lines;

36 (ii) Twenty-five feet from septic tanks;

37 (iii) Fifty feet from septic drain fields;

38 (iv) Ten feet from a connection between a house and a septic tank; and

39 (v) Ten feet from a connection between a house and a sewer line;"

40 **SECTION 4.**

41 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.