



2024 South Dakota Legislature

House Bill 1128

Introduced by: **Representative Gross**

1 **An Act to require a zoning authority to determine that a well is an established well**
 2 **that has not been abandoned in making a permitting decision.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 11-2:**

5 When a well is at issue in making a zoning determination for the purpose of local
 6 permitting, the zoning authority must determine whether the well is an established well
 7 that has not been abandoned.

8 A well that is either abandoned or not established, or both, must not be used as a
 9 basis for denial of the zoning determination.

10 Terms used in this section mean:

11 (1) "Abandoned well," a well in such a state of disrepair that its original purpose cannot
 12 reasonably be achieved or that has not been used for water production in the past
 13 two calendar years;

14 (2) "Established well," a well for which:

15 (a) A well completion report is on file with the Department of Agriculture and
 16 Natural Resources; or

17 (b) The owner of the well files a sworn affidavit with the Register of Deeds of
 18 the county in which the well is located affirming that the well has been used
 19 for water production for more than one week in each of the two calendar
 20 years preceding submission of the sworn affidavit; and

21 (3) "Well," an artificial excavation or opening in the ground, made by means of digging,
 22 boring, drilling, jetting, or by any other artificial method, for the purpose of
 23 obtaining groundwater.