

HB 1433 -- Water Pollution Control Basins

Sponsor: Wood

This bill creates the Upper White River Basin Watershed Improvement District, an area that includes Table Rock Lake, the James River, the White River, Lake Taneycomo, and Bull Shoals Lake. The district is authorized to own, install, operate, and maintain decentralized or individual on-site wastewater treatment plants.

The county commission of any county located within the district can authorize individual properties to be served by the district by adopting a resolution. Before the resolution can be adopted, a petition signed by at least 60% of the property owners within the proposed area must be filed with the commission.

Property that is currently served by a sewer district cannot be a part of the watershed improvement district unless the existing sewer district agrees to stop providing service to the property. The watershed improvement district will not provide service to any property unless the owner wants the service. Property owners who participate in the district must provide proof of creditworthiness.

Sewer systems installed on property that participates in the district must meet the standards set by the district board and the appropriate state agencies.

Participating property owners must have a maintenance plan approved by the district for the sewer systems on their property, and they must execute a utilities easement to allow the district access to the system for maintenance and inspection.

The watershed improvement district will have a board of trustees. The board will have nine members, each from a different county, appointed by the Department of Natural Resources. The bill specifies the length of term each trustee will serve and the manner in which successive trustees will be chosen.