

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 197

BY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO EASTERN SNAKE PLAIN AQUIFER RECHARGE; AMENDING CHAPTER 17, TITLE
2 42, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 42-1781, IDAHO CODE, TO
3 REQUIRE DIVERSION OF WATER FOR AQUIFER RECHARGE PURPOSES; AND DECLARING
4 AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
5

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 SECTION 1. That Chapter 17, Title 42, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
8 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
9 ignated as Section 42-1781, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

10 42-1781. DIVERSION OF WATER TO SUPPORT AQUIFER RECHARGE. The Idaho wa-
11 ter resource board shall divert, pursuant to its recharge water rights, all
12 available water for recharge purposes in the eastern Snake plain aquifer un-
13 til:

14 (1) The eastern Snake plain aquifer recharge goal of three hundred
15 fifty thousand (350,000) acre-feet is met for that irrigation season or a
16 higher goal is set by an approved state water plan and met; or

17 (2) The director of the department of water resources declares, in
18 writing, that the aquifer or any part of the aquifer that was subject to
19 recharge is stable.

20 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
21 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
22 July 1, 2025.