

# HB282: the Fracking Transparency Bill

Chief Sponsor: Rep. Robyn Gabel

**NOTE:** Currently there are two separate tracks for horizontal or directional fracking in Illinois—one for high volume fracking and another for fracking that doesn't reach the high volume threshold.

## HB282 is a transparency bill.

1. It requires that the **length and direction** of all horizontal or directional extensions from a vertical bore hole be included in the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) weekly permit logs currently available online.
2. It also requires **disclosure of all chemicals** used during the drilling and completion of wells that have horizontal or directional extensions. This information will be made publicly available along with permit logs on the IDNR's web site.

Low and medium volume fracking is governed by the antiquated 1951 Oil and Gas Act. Using that act's **confidentiality clause**, fracking companies can frack in secret for a period of 2 years without disclosing any information to the public. (§240.650; §240.790; §240.1270).

## HB282 removes that confidentiality clause.

Language in HB282 is consistent with the Illinois Hydraulic Fracturing Regulatory Act. It closes the current loophole on horizontal/directional drilling in the Oil and Gas Act.

**This bill would place NO additional burden on fracking/drilling companies. This information is already required as part the permitting process.**

- **The companies have this information.**
- **IDNR has this information.**
- **The only people who don't have this information is the public. We have the right to know.**

Why we need to modernize Section 5 of the IL Oil and Gas Act:

1. Some horizontal or directional extensions in Illinois are drilled so **close to the surface** that they are within the geological strata containing drinking water.
2. Others are drilled in areas pin-cushioned with **played-out wells**. They can be broached during hydraulic fracturing and then serve as avenues for the upward movement of pollution either into strata containing drinking water, or to the surface where pollutants degrade soil and contaminate the air.
3. Residents in the vicinity of wells with horizontal or directional extensions in other states have suffered from **adverse health** and/or declines in their **property values**.
4. Over 1000 scientific, medical and media findings demonstrate the **risks of fracking** since the passage of the Illinois Hydraulic Fracturing Regulatory Act on 6/16/12.

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