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**BILL ANALYSIS**

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Senate Bill 387 (as introduced 6-9-15)  
Sponsor: Senator Dale W. Zorn  
Committee: Energy and Technology

Date Completed: 9-9-15

**CONTENT**

The bill would amend Part 615 (Supervisor of Wells) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the Department of Environmental Quality from issuing a permit for drilling, or authorizing the use of, an injection well for disposal or storage within an area of karst geology located within 25 miles of the Great Lakes or their connecting waterways.

The prohibition would apply notwithstanding any other provision of Part 615 or the rules promulgated under it.

Proposed MCL 324.61505b

**BACKGROUND**

Karst geology is characterized by caves, sinkholes, and other underground drainage passages. These features are created when water mixes with carbon dioxide in the air and soil, forming an acid that dissolves particular types of rock, namely limestone, dolomite, and gypsum. As the corrosion occurs, the network of passages expands and provides a direct route to the water table. Normally, pollutants are filtered from surface water as it seeps downward through soil and bedrock. In karst terrain, however, the water flows easily underground, bypassing the natural filtration process and potentially compromising groundwater reserves.

Legislative Analyst: Julie Cassidy

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Josh Sefton

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.