

# Water pipeline bill passes first reading

**By The News-Record staff**

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The Gillette Madison Water Project bill passed its first vote on the Senate floor Tuesday.

Sen. John Hines, R-Gillette, who sponsored the bill, said nobody voted against it during the first reading. The vote was a vocal tally of ayes and nays, he said.

"It appears it's going well," Hines said.

The bill will be voted on two more times and it must be approved on each reading before it can reach the House Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resource Committee.

If it passes there, it will move on to the House Appropriations Committee, following the same course it did in the Senate.

Assuming it passes the Senate, the bill is expected to move on to the House by late Thursday, where it will follow the same process of three readings.

Senate File 36 would secure \$25 million for the second phase of the water project.

The project will build a 42-mile long pipeline to connect to the Madison aquifer near Pine Haven. It will deliver water to Gillette and other communities in the region. The project will match the demand for water in Gillette's 30-year growth forecast.

The \$25 million will allow the city to move forward on phase two of the project, which will involve the internal workings of the pipeline, City Administrator Mike Muirhead said.