

2 SSCR 8408 - H COMM AMD

3 By Committee on Agriculture & Ecology

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5 Beginning on page 1, line 1, after "WHEREAS," strike all material
6 through "void." on page 3, line 21, and insert "State statutes
7 governing water allocation, instream flows, and other related water
8 resource management are written in a broad manner and as a result there
9 is a wide range of different interpretations of the law which causes
10 much confusion; and

11 WHEREAS, This situation creates major problems for the Department
12 of Ecology and water users throughout the state; and

13 WHEREAS, This situation causes considerable delays and much higher
14 costs for the Department of Ecology and water users; and

15 WHEREAS, An unusually large number of water right appeals of the
16 Department of Ecology actions have overloaded the Pollution Control
17 Hearings Board and the subsequent appeals of the hearings board's
18 decisions to the courts have escalated costs and delays; and

19 WHEREAS, An examination by the Legislature of these hard-to-
20 interpret state water laws will give the Legislature the opportunity to
21 clarify these statutes and, by doing so, reduce these problems, costs,
22 and delays;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of
24 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a joint
25 select committee on clarifying state water law be established to
26 examine the hard-to-interpret provisions of the statutes governing
27 water allocation, instream flows, and other related water resource
28 management and to recommend clarifications to those provisions that do
29 not change state policy; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee consist of
31 eight members with four members appointed by the Speaker of the House
32 of Representatives, two from the majority party caucus and two from the
33 minority party caucus in the House of Representatives, and four members
34 appointed by the President of the Senate, two from the majority party
35 caucus and two from the minority party caucus in the Senate, and that
36 the members of the joint select committee select cochairs of the

1 committee, one from the House of Representatives and one from the
2 Senate; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That staff support for the joint select
4 committee be provided by the office of program research of the House of
5 Representatives and Senate committee services; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee report its
7 recommendations to the Legislature in the form of proposed legislation
8 by December 1, 1997."

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