

2 SHB 1112 - S AMD - 457

3 By Senators Fraser and Loveland

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5 On page 3, after line 20 insert the following:

6 "The referee shall perform its fact finding and investigative  
7 functions through all available means with the objective of providing  
8 the most complete and accurate report to the court that is possible.  
9 In doing so the referee shall make site visits, shall meet with  
10 claimants and others who may have information regarding water use and  
11 availability in the basin, and shall review city, county, court, real  
12 property and other records of previous and current water use. The  
13 referee shall investigate information that is relevant to and probative  
14 of water use and shall include in its report to the court its  
15 assessment of the reliability of evidence upon which the report's  
16 findings and recommendations are made.

17 The referee shall schedule one or meetings at convenient locations  
18 within the basin for the purpose of explaining the adjudication  
19 proceedings to claimants and interested persons. The referee shall  
20 provide information to potential claimants on filing required  
21 documents, opportunities to be heard in the proceedings, and the  
22 anticipated steps that will occur throughout the proceedings."

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**EFFECT:** Clarifies the fact finding role of the referee and specifically authorizes the provision by the referee of assistance to claimants in understanding the adjudication process.