

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6141

As of January 19, 1998

Title: An act relating to water rights.

Brief Description: Regulating public water systems.

Sponsors: Senators Morton, Rasmussen, Winsley, Goings and Schow.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Agriculture & Environment: 1/20/98.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Staff: Bob Lee (786-7404)

Background: In 1967, statutory provisions were enacted relating to the relinquishment of unused water rights. Under this act, if all or a portion of a water right was not beneficially used for five consecutive years, the unused portion would revert to the state. Also, the statute required the filing with the state of claims to water rights that predated the water right permitting system.

As part of the 1967 legislation, an exemption to the relinquishment for five years of non-use provision was provided for rights claimed for municipal water supply purposes. The 1967 statute did not define municipal water supply purposes.

Operating permits from the Department of Health are required for public water systems with 15 or more connections.

Summary of Bill: Municipal water supply purposes is defined. The term means those public water system rights certificated, permitted, or authorized by the Department of Ecology to public water systems that are both: (1) granted an operating permit by the Department of Health or approved by a local county health agency, and (2) expanding public water systems with water system comprehensive plans approved by the Department of Health.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.