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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6525**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**2000 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Environmental Quality & Water Resources  
(originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Swecker, Jacobsen, Eide,  
McAuliffe and Gardner)

Read first time 02/04/2000.

1 AN ACT Relating to prioritizing the processing of applications for  
2 water rights changes and transfers; adding a new section to chapter  
3 90.03 RCW; and creating new sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** In order to help reduce the current backlog  
6 of applications for changes or transfers of existing water rights, the  
7 legislature intends to allow the processing of applications for changes  
8 or transfers of existing water rights without regard to possible  
9 impairment of pending applications for new water rights and to confirm  
10 that the order in which applications are processed may be established  
11 administratively.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature finds that information  
13 provided by the public helps to assure compliance with the requirements  
14 of current law that decisions on applications for changes or transfers  
15 of existing water rights must not impair existing water rights and must  
16 be in the public interest.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 90.03 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        (1) Applications for changes or transfers of water rights may be  
4 processed and decisions on them rendered independently of pending  
5 applications for new water rights for the same source of supply and  
6 independently of any applications for other sources of supply, without  
7 regard to the date on which the applications were filed. The order in  
8 which applications are processed and decisions on them rendered may  
9 continue to be established according to criteria adopted by rule. For  
10 purposes of this section, "independently" refers both to the order of  
11 processing and to possible impairment of pending applications for new  
12 water rights.

13        (2) For purposes of receiving public comment, notice of the  
14 commencement of processing of applications for changes or transfers of  
15 existing water rights includes publication on the department's web  
16 page, and any public comments received in the course of processing must  
17 be considered.

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