

Agriculture & Ecology Committee

HB 1769

Brief Description: *Changing the time period for relinquishment of a water right.*

Sponsors: *Representatives G. Chandler, B. Chandler, Clements, Armstrong, Lisk, Delvin and Mulliken.*

Brief Summary of Bill

- *Extends the period of non-use that causes a relinquishment of a water right to 10 years.*

Hearing Date: *2/15/01*

Staff: *Kenneth Hirst (786-7105).*

Background:

In general, if a person abandons his or her water right or voluntarily fails to use the right for 5 successive years, the person relinquishes the right or the portion of the right abandoned or not used. (RCW 90.14.160 - 90.14.180.) Exemptions, referred to as "sufficient causes" for the non-use, are provided by the relinquishment statutes. (RCW 90.14.140.)

Summary of Bill:

The period of non-use of a water right without a sufficient cause that constitutes a relinquishment of the right is now 10 years, rather than 5 years.

Appropriation: *None.*

Fiscal Note: *Not Requested.*

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

