

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5714

As of February 13, 2001

Title: An act relating to nonuse of water for sufficient cause.

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

Sponsors: Senators Honeyford, Hale, Swecker, T. Sheldon, Morton, Rasmussen, McDonald, Hochstatter, Sheahan, Deccio, Hewitt, Parlette and Stevens.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Environment, Energy & Water: 2/15/01.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & WATER

Staff: Genevieve Pisarski (786-7488)

Background: Under current law, if a person voluntarily fails, without sufficient cause, to use a water right for five successive years, the water right reverts back to the state. The state Supreme Court has construed sufficient cause narrowly.

Summary of Bill: The period of time for which nonuse of water without sufficient cause is excused is increased from five to ten years.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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