
SENATE BILL 5267

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Morton, West, Sheahan, Brown, Honeyford, McCaslin,
Hewitt, Hochstatter, T. Sheldon and Hale

Read first time 01/17/2001. Referred to Committee on Environment,
Energy & Water.

1 AN ACT Relating to water rights; creating new sections; making
2 appropriations; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the present
5 backlog of water right permits is unacceptable and that it is
6 essential to find a means for facilitating more expeditious water
7 permit processing and eliminating the permit application backlog
8 as soon as possible.

9 The legislature therefore establishes a pilot water permit
10 process for the eastern regional office of the department of
11 ecology.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) An application for a change or
13 transfer of an existing water right is to be processed without
14 regard for the potential impairment such a change or transfer
15 might have on any pending applications for new water rights for
16 the same source of supply.

17 (2) Applications for existing water rights may be processed and

1 decisions on them rendered independently of processing and
2 rendering decisions on pending applications for new water rights
3 within the same source of supply without regard to the date of
4 filing of pending applications for new water rights.

5 (3) This section applies only to water permit applications and
6 water rights processed in the eastern regional office of the
7 department.

8 (4) This section expires July 31, 2003.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of one hundred sixty
10 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
11 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, from the
12 general fund to the department of ecology. The department must use
13 one-half of this sum for the processing of new water right
14 applications, and one-half of this sum for the processing of
15 existing water right applications for change or transfer.

16 (2) The sum of one hundred sixty thousand dollars, or as much
17 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year
18 ending June 30, 2003, from the general fund to the department of
19 ecology. The department must use one-half of this sum for the
20 processing of new water right applications, and one-half of this
21 sum for the processing of existing water right applications for
22 change or transfer.

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