
SENATE BILL 6180

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Deccio, Morton, Hale, Sheahan, Hewitt,
Hochstatter and Parlette

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to water conservation; adding a new section to
2 chapter 89.08 RCW; creating a new section; and making appropriations.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 89.08 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The state conservation commission must provide grants to
7 conservation districts to assist the agricultural community to
8 implement water conservation measures and irrigation efficiencies in
9 the sixteen water resource inventory areas identified by the governor's
10 salmon recovery office where more water has been allocated than is
11 naturally available for at least part of the year and in which one or
12 more fish stocks are listed as threatened or endangered under the
13 federal endangered species act.

14 In consultation with the department of ecology, a conservation
15 district receiving funds must manage each grant to ensure that a
16 portion of the water saved by the water conservation measure or
17 irrigation efficiency will be placed in the trust water rights program
18 under chapters 90.38 and 90.42 RCW, to enhance instream flow, in the
19 following manner:

1 (1) The portion of saved water placed in the trust water rights
2 program must be equal to the percentage of the public investment in the
3 conservation measure or irrigation efficiency; and

4 (2) The saved water placed in the trust water rights program must
5 remain in the program for one year for every five percent of public
6 investment in the conservation measure or irrigation efficiency.

7 In awarding the grants, a conservation district must give first
8 priority to family farms as defined in RCW 90.66.040.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By February 1, 2003, the state conservation
10 commission must submit a progress report to the appropriate standing
11 committees of the legislature concerning: (1) The amount of public
12 funds expended under section 1 of this act; (2) the location and amount
13 of water placed in the trust water rights program under section 1 of
14 this act; and (3) the methods used by conservation districts to ensure
15 a portion of the water saved by the water conservation measure or
16 irrigation efficiency actually enhanced instream flows.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of eight million dollars, or as much
18 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
19 June 30, 2001, from the emergency reserve fund to the state
20 conservation commission for the purposes of section 1 of this act.
21 Moneys that are not expended from this appropriation by June 30, 2001,
22 are reappropriated for expenditure in fiscal years 2002 and 2003.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of seven million dollars, or as much
24 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
25 June 30, 2001, from the general fund to the department of ecology. The
26 appropriation in this section is provided solely to lease water rights
27 to be placed in the trust water rights program under chapters 90.38 and
28 90.42 RCW and to purchase water use metering equipment and stream flow
29 monitoring equipment. The department of ecology must allocate eighty
30 percent of the appropriation for the purchase of trust water rights.
31 Any moneys remaining unexpended from the appropriation in this section
32 on June 30, 2001, are reappropriated for expenditures in fiscal years
33 2002 and 2003.

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