
**Agriculture & Natural
Resources Committee**

HB 2106

Brief Description: Regarding fundamentals for use and management of waters of the state.

Sponsors: Representatives Linville, McCoy, Eickmeyer, McDermott and Grant.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Acknowledges that rights, including water rights, may be established as part of federal land reservations.

Hearing Date: 3/4/03

Staff: Kenneth Hirst (786-7105).

Background:

When the United States reserves land for a specific purpose, it reserves with it sufficient water to fulfill the purposes of the reservation. The priority date of the reserved water right is the date the reservation was established. This water right is not subject to relinquishment for non-use. (*Federal and Indian Reserved Water Rights: A Report to the Washington State Legislature by the Office of the Attorney General, October 2002, pages 10 and 11.*)

Summary of Bill:

The state acknowledges that rights, including rights to water, may be established as part of federal land reservations established through federal law, including federal treaties. This statement is not be construed as expanding or establishing a state law basis for such rights.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.