
SENATE BILL 6506

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford and Morton

Read first time 01/13/2006. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to building permit moratoriums due to water rights
2 issues; and amending RCW 19.27.097.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.27.097 and 1995 c 399 s 9 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Each applicant for a building permit of a building
7 necessitating potable water shall provide evidence of an adequate water
8 supply for the intended use of the building. Evidence may be in the
9 form of a water right permit from the department of ecology, a letter
10 from an approved water purveyor stating the ability to provide water,
11 or another form sufficient to verify the existence of an adequate water
12 supply. In addition to other authorities, the county or city may
13 impose conditions on building permits requiring connection to an
14 existing public water system where the existing system is willing and
15 able to provide safe and reliable potable water to the applicant with
16 reasonable economy and efficiency. An application for a water right
17 shall not be sufficient proof of an adequate water supply.

18 (2) Within counties not required or not choosing to plan pursuant
19 to RCW 36.70A.040, the county and the state may mutually determine

1 those areas in the county in which the requirements of subsection (1)
2 of this section shall not apply. The departments of health and ecology
3 shall coordinate on the implementation of this section. Should the
4 county and the state fail to mutually determine those areas to be
5 designated pursuant to this subsection, the county may petition the
6 department of community, trade, and economic development to mediate or,
7 if necessary, make the determination.

8 (3) Buildings that do not need potable water facilities are exempt
9 from the provisions of this section. The department of ecology, after
10 consultation with local governments, may adopt rules to implement this
11 section, which may recognize differences between high-growth and low-
12 growth counties.

13 (4) For purposes of this section, no state, county, or city agency
14 or authority may place a moratorium on building permits unless the
15 department of ecology has issued a record of examination for all active
16 and completed water right applications pending with the department in
17 the pertinent jurisdiction.

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