
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2603

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By House Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources
(originally sponsored by Representatives Springer, Chandler, Chapman,
Fitzgibbon, Lekanoff, and Tharinger; by request of Department of
Ecology)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to trust water rights; and creating a new
2 section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of ecology shall
5 convene a work group of affected entities to study the design and use
6 of the state water trust, water banking and water transfers, and
7 tools to protect instream water rights from neighboring states and
8 make recommendations on policy improvements. The department of
9 ecology shall invite representatives to serve on the work group from
10 organizations including, but not limited to:

- 11 (a) Federally recognized Indian tribes;
- 12 (b) Local governments;
- 13 (c) Environmental advocacy organizations;
- 14 (d) The farming industry in Washington;
- 15 (e) Business interests; and
- 16 (f) Entities that have been directly involved with the
17 establishment of water banks.

18 (2) In addition to an invitation to participate on the work
19 group, the department of ecology shall also consult with affected
20 tribal governments upon request.

1 (3) By August 1, 2020, the department of ecology shall present
2 findings and policy recommendations to the joint legislative task
3 force on water resource mitigation and the governor's office.

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