

5486

Sponsor(s): Senators Rasmussen, Morton, Haugen, Winsley and Palmer

Brief Description: Affecting the processing of water rights.

**SB 5486 - DIGEST**

(SEE ALSO PROPOSED 1ST SUB)

Declares a purpose to make changes to the water right permitting process and to provide sufficient funds to catch up on the backlog of water right applications in as short a period as possible.

Sets forth the powers of the department to regulate the withdrawal or diversion of public waters including regulation based on dates of priority or other pertinent factors.

Requires regulatory actions to be based on examination of the various water rights involved according to the department's records.

Revises procedures for appeal to the pollution control hearings board.

Develops a general permit system for appropriating water for nonconsumptive, nonbypass uses.

Establishes streamlined procedures for the processing of applications for de minimus appropriations of surface water.

Establishes a register that identifies, by water resource inventory area, applications for new water rights and for transfers of water rights.

Directs the department, in conjunction with the task force, to develop a budget process for its water rights administration.

Revises the composition and authority of the task force.

Requires additional fees for water rights applications for a four year period.

Repeals RCW 90.03.471.