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SENATE BILL 6163

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Ericksen, Swecker, Hatfield, and Chase

Read first time 01/12/12. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to directing the department of ecology to  
2 coordinate discussions with the province of British Columbia to study  
3 the feasibility of providing new water supplies and storage to benefit  
4 residents of western Washington; creating a new section; and providing  
5 an expiration date.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of ecology shall  
8 coordinate with the water stewardship division of the ministry of  
9 environment for the province of British Columbia, Canada, to study and  
10 evaluate the feasibility of providing new water supplies and storage  
11 from Harrison lake and Ross lake to benefit residents of western  
12 Washington in the areas of water management, economic development,  
13 fishery resource management, and agricultural production. The  
14 department of ecology shall specifically examine, though not singularly  
15 examine, the potential of using the existing upper Skagit water storage  
16 system for additional storage of water imported from Canada. The  
17 department of ecology is also encouraged to coordinate with federal  
18 agencies including, but not limited to, the United States state

1 department, the United States department of the interior, and the  
2 bureau of reclamation.

3 (2) By December 1, 2012, and within existing resources, the  
4 department of ecology shall report its findings and recommendations to  
5 the governor and the legislature consistent with RCW 43.01.036. The  
6 report must include data and an analysis regarding the feasibility,  
7 cost estimates, and any barriers to:

8 (a) Using the existing upper Skagit water storage system for  
9 additional storage of water imported from Canada; and

10 (b) Acquiring water rights from Harrison lake for the benefit of  
11 residents of western Washington in the areas of water management,  
12 economic development, fishery resource management, and agricultural  
13 production.

14 (3) This section expires January 1, 2013.

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