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**Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Committee**

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**HB 1267**

**Brief Description:** Clarifying that the legislature intends that RCW 90.14.140 be liberally construed.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Warnick, Chandler, Hinkle, Newhouse, Blake, Ross, Johnson, Kretz and McCune.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Adds language specifying that the Legislature intends sufficient causes for nonuse of a water right to be liberally construed.

**Hearing Date:** 1/29/09

**Staff:** Jaclyn Ford (786-7339)

**Background:**

Water rights may be relinquished when a person, for five or more consecutive years, abandons or voluntarily fails without sufficient cause to beneficially use water in accordance with their recorded right's terms. The water code provides a "sufficient cause" list of statutory excuses that protect a water right from relinquishment.

**Summary of Bill:**

The Legislature intends the sufficient causes for nonuse of a water right to be liberally construed. "Liberally construed" means that Legislature intends the statute to have a broad interpretation so that it covers a wide range of conduct.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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