Ecology Water Resources

Bills of Interest, 2024 Legislative Session

Updated March 5, 2024

	Active House Bills						
Bill No.	Bill Title	Prime Sponsor	Bill Description	Committee Action	Progress		
HB 1752	Modifying the application of the	Dye	Authorizes Ecology to approve changes to Bureau of	HOUSE	HOUSE		
Reintroduced	annual consumptive quantity		Reclamation water rights held within the Columbia Basin	Agriculture & Natural	1/8: Reintroduced and		
from 2023	calculation to change applications		Project that would change the number of acres irrigated by	Resources:	retained in present status		
	related to certain water rights held		those water rights provided that there is no increase in the	1/24: Public hearing	1/30: Do Pass		
	by the United States Bureau of		instantaneous or annual quantities of those rights. Exempts	1/30: Executive session	1/31: Referred to Rules		
	Reclamation.		these water right changes from the requirement under RCW		2/2: Placed on second reading		
			90.03.380 that changes in irrigated acreage must not result	SENATE	2/8: Third reading, passed 97-		
			in any increase in annual consumptive quantity.	Agriculture, Water, Natural	0		
				Resources, & Parks:	2/29: Speaker signed		
				2/15: Public hearing			
				2/19: Executive session	SENATE		
					2/12: First reading, referred to		
					Agriculture, Water, Natural		
					Resources, & Parks		
					2/19: Do Pass		
					2/20: Referred to Rules		
					2/23: Placed on second		
					reading		
					2/28: Third reading, passed		
					49-0		
					3/1: President signed		
					GOVERNOR		
					3/4: Delivered to Governor		

	Active Senate Bills						
Bill No.	Bill Title	Prime Sponsor	Bill Description	Committee Action	Progress		
ESSB 5828	Concerning water rights	Shewmake	Requested by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	SENATE	SENATE		
HB 1993	adjudication commissioners and		Authorizes a superior court engaged in a water rights	Law & Justice:	1/8: First reading, referred to		
companion	referees.		adjudication to appoint water commissioners to conduct	1/16: Public hearing	Law & Justice		
			adjudication business on its behalf.	1/18: Executive session	1/18: Do Pass Substitute		
					1/19: Referred to Ways &		
			Substitute bill: Removes consent of parties exemption	Ways & Means:	Means		
			under RCW 4.48.020 for referral of parties to a water rights	2/1: Executive session	2/1: Referred without		
			adjudication referee.		recommendation (no fiscal		
				HOUSE	impact)		
			Engrossed Susbtitute bill: Clarifies procedure for	Civil Rights and Judiciary:	2/9: Placed on second reading		
			appointment and challenge of water rights adjudication	2/20: Public hearing	2/13: Third reading, passed		
			referees.	2/21: Executive session	49-0		
					3/4: Senate concurred in		
					House amendments		
					Final passage, 49-0		
					3/6: President signed		
					HOUSE		
					2/15: First reading, referred to		
					Cvil Rights & Judiciary		
					2/21: Do Pass		
					2/21: Referred to Rules		
1					2/24: Placed on second		
					reading		
					2/27: Third reading, passed		
					95-0		
					3/7: Speaker signed		
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	Active FYI Bills					
Bill No.	Bill Title	Prime Sponsor	Bill Description	Committee Action	Progress	

HB 1992	Adding an additional superior	Timmons	Requested by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Adds	HOUSE	HOUSE
SB 5827	court judge in Whatcom county.		an additional superior court judge in Whatcom County.	Civil Rights & Judiciary:	1/8: First reading, referred to
companion				1/26: Public hearing	Civil Rights & Judiciary
				1/30: Executive session	1/30: Do Pass
					1/31: Referred to
				Appropriations:	Appropriations
				2/2: Public hearing	2/8: Placed on second reading
				2/5 Executive session	2/9: Third reading, passed 96-
					1
				SENATE	3/1: Speaker signed
				Law & Justice:	
				2/15: Executive session	SENATE
					2/13: First reading, referred to
					Law & Justice
					2/15: Do Pass
					2/16: Referred to Rules
					2/27: Placed on second
					reading
					2/29: Third reading, passed
					49-0
					3/4: President signed
					GOVERNOR
					3/5: Delivered to Governor

	Inactive Bills					
Bill No.	Bill Title	Prime Sponsor	Bill Description	Committee Action	Progress	
HB 1993 SSB 5828 companion	Concerning water rights adjudication commissioners and referees.	Timmons	Requested by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Authorizes a superior court engaged in a water rights adjudication to appoint water commissioners to conduct adjudication business on its behalf.	HOUSE Civil Rights & Judiciary:	HOUSE 1/8: First reading, referred to Civil Rights & Judiciary	
HB 2074	Limiting the application of certain civil penalties to protect landowners from incurring penalties based on the actions of the landowner's lessee.	Dye	Prohibits Ecology from issuing a civil penalty for violation of chapters 43.83B, 90.03, 90.22, or 90.44 RCW against a landowner if violation is due to the actions of the landowner's lessee. In this case, Ecology may issue the penalty to the landowner's lessee.	HOUSE Agriculture & Natural Resources: 1/16: Public hearing 1/30: Executive session SENATE Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources, & Parks: 2/15: Public hearing 2/19: Executive session	HOUSE 1/8: First reading, referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources 1/30: Do Pass 1/31: Referred to Rules 2/2: Placed on second reading 2/7: Third reading, passed 96-0 SENATE 2/9: First reading, referred to Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources, & Parks 2/19: No action	
HB 2105	Ensuring the protection of instream resources in connection with the issuance of water right permits in water resource inventory areas in which minimum instream flows are not being met.	Fitzgibbon	Authorizes Ecology to issue new surface or groundwater permits in basins with existing instream flow rules or surface water closures on the basis of water-for-water mitigation measures that may not coincide with impacts exactly within time or place. Removes authorization for Ecology to approve withdrawals of water on the basis of overriding consideration of the public interest.	HOUSE Agriculture & Natural Resources: 1/16: Public hearing	HOUSE 1/8: First reading, referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources	
<u>HB 2187</u>	Promoting access to water for family farms.	Dent	Authorizes Ecology to approve permanent withdrawals of water that would impact adopted instream flow rules on the basis of overriding consideration of the public interest. Amends RCW 90.54.020 to state that a family farm located within 20 miles of a city of 150,000 or more residents that has been in continuous operation for more than a hundred years and produces fruit and vegetables for urban residents	HOUSE Agriculture & Natural Resources: 1/16: Public hearing	HOUSE 1/8: First reading, referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources	

SSB 5517	Enacting recommendations from	Warnick	Establishes a mitigation sequencing standard for new	SENATE	SENATE
Reintroduced	the joint legislative task force on		groundwater right applications in basins with regulated	Agriculture, Water, Natural	1/8: Reintroduced and
from 2023	water resource mitigation.		surface flows wherein applicants must avoid, minimize, and	Resources, & Parks:	retained in present status
			then compensate for impacts to through in-kind or out-of-	1/11: Executive session	1/11: Do Pass Substitute
			kind mitigation. Directs Ecology to establish standards for		1/12: Referred to Ways &
			groundwater modeling through rulemaking. Defines	Ways & Means:	Means
			overriding consideration of the public interest to apply to	1/22: Public hearing	
			authorizations for both temporary and permanent		
			withdrawals.		
			Substitute bill: Defines conditions under which out-of-kind		
			mitigation must be considered. Creates a fee-in-lieu		
			mitigation alternative.		

			Inactive FYI Bills		
Bill No.	Bill Title	Prime Sponsor	Bill Description	Committee Action	Progress
HB 2042 SB 5992 companion	Requiring applicants seeking energy facility site certification for an energy facility that generates electricity using renewable resources to provide evidence of an adequate water supply for the project.	Corry	States that renewable energy facilities seeking a permit under chapter 80.50 RCW must provide evidence of adequate water supply for the project.	HOUSE Environment & Energy:	HOUSE 1/8: First reading, referred to Environment & Energy
HB 2299 SB 6062 companion	Concerning the authority of the department of natural resources to lease trust assets for the benefit of trust beneficiaries and the state.	Street	Authorizes DNR to lease its trust assets.	HOUSE Capital Budget: 1/25: Public hearing	HOUSE 1/11: First reading, referred to Capital Budget
SB 5827 HB 1992 companion	Adding an additional superior court judge in Whatcom county.	Shewmake	Requested by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Adds an additional superior court judge in Whatcom County.	SENATE Law & Justice: 1/9: Public hearing 1/11: Executive session Ways & Means: 1/22 Public hearing 2/1: Executive session	SENATE 1/8: First reading, referred to Law & Justice 1/11: Do Pass 1/12: Referred to Ways & Means 2/1: Do Pass 2/5: Referred to Rules
SB 5992 HB 2042 companion	Requiring applicants seeking energy facility site certification for an energy facility that generates electricity using renewable resources to provide evidence of an adequate water supply for the project.	Warnick	States that renewable energy facilities seeking a permit under chapter 80.50 RCW must provide evidence of adequate water supply for the project.	SENATE Environment, Energy, & Technology: 1/24: Public hearing	SENATE 1/8: First reading, referred to Environment, Energy, & Technology
SB 6062 HB 2299 companion	Concerning the authority of the department of natural resources to lease trust assets for the benefit of trust beneficiaries and the state.	Torres	Authorizes DNR to lease its trust assets. Substitute bill: Clarifies that bill provisions apply to DNR water rights. Requires DNR to provide notice and opportunity for consultation to any federally recognized tribe that may be impacted by leasing of DNR water rights.	SENATE Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources, & Parks: 1/18: Public hearing 1/29: Executive session	SENATE 1/9: First reading, referred to Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources, & Parks 1/29: Do Pass Substitute 1/30: Referred to Rules 2/2: Placed on second reading