
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8425

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senators Sutherland, Owen, Fraser, Morton, M. Rasmussen and Hochstatter

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 WHEREAS, The protection and proper management of Washington's water
2 sources is essential to maintaining public health, enhancing the
3 economy of the state, and protecting environmental quality; and

4 WHEREAS, Water resources in Washington are under increasing demand
5 for both instream and offstream uses; and

6 WHEREAS, Washington's policies lack sufficient motivation to
7 encourage the efficient use of water; and

8 WHEREAS, Present water policy is developed by a wide array of
9 public and private entities that lack a coordinated and modern approach
10 to a current and comprehensive water policy for Washington state; and

11 WHEREAS, Existing water resources statutes and court decisions
12 construing these statutes have created uncertainty in the
13 administration of water resources programs, including the regulation of
14 water usage and associate appropriative rights;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of
16 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That the
17 legislative water policy working group be established. The working
18 group shall conduct a comprehensive review of water laws, court
19 decisions, and resource management that includes:

20 (1) An identification of all programs governing flood and storm
21 water management, water supply delivery, water quality protection,

1 instream and riparian habitat protection, and other water resource
2 management needs;

3 (2) An assessment of conflicting or inconsistent strategies,
4 standards, jurisdiction, or planning requirements;

5 (3) Recommendations for any combination of the coordination,
6 consolidation, or integration of either state water resource programs
7 or water quality programs, or both, including the possibility for an
8 independent water resource agency;

9 (4) Recommendations for comprehensive statutory policies on water
10 allocation procedures and priorities, including revisions of the
11 state's surface and ground water codes;

12 (5) Recommendations to achieve water resource management on a
13 watershed basis;

14 (6) Recommendations for changes to water resource planning programs
15 to achieve a comprehensive regional planning framework whose boundaries
16 recognize hydrological boundaries including consistency with programs
17 and objects of the growth management act; and

18 (7) Assessment of policies and programs governing surface and
19 ground waters, and recommendations for improved policies management;
20 and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the legislative water policy working
22 group consist of the chair and ranking minority member of the following
23 committees: The Senate committee on agriculture; the Senate committee
24 on ecology and parks; the Senate committee on energy and utilities; the
25 Senate committee on natural resources; the House of Representatives
26 committee on agriculture and rural development; the House of
27 Representatives committee on environmental affairs; the House of
28 Representatives committee on fisheries and wildlife; and the House of
29 Representatives committee on natural resources and parks. In addition,
30 the Governor may appoint up to five ex officio and nonvoting members to
31 the legislative water policy working group. The working group shall
32 choose its chair and vice-chair from among its membership; and

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the legislative water policy working
34 group shall use existing legislative staff and facilities. All
35 expenses of the Senate and the House of Representatives members of the
36 legislative water policy working group, including travel, shall be paid
37 jointly by the Senate and the House of Representatives; and

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the legislative water policy working
39 group report its findings and recommendations, including

1 recommendations for legislation, to the appropriate legislative
2 committees by December 15, 1994; and
3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the legislative water policy working
4 group shall expire January 1, 1995.

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