

E2SSB 6267 - H AMD TO AGNR COMM AMD (H-5369.1/10) **1449**
By Representatives Morris, Van De Wege

ADOPTED 03/03/2010

1 On page 17, after line 10 of the amendment, insert the following:

2 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** A new section is added to chapter 90.03
3 RCW to read as follows:

4 The water rights processing and dam safety account is created in
5 the state treasury. All receipts from the fees collected under RCW
6 90.03.470 must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account
7 may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account
8 may be used only to support the processing of water right applications
9 and change applications as provided in this chapter and chapters 90.38,
10 90.42, and 90.44 RCW and the safety inspection of hydraulic works and
11 plans and specifications for such works.

12 **Sec. 17.** RCW 90.03.470 and 2005 c 412 s 2 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 The fees specified in this section shall be collected by the
15 department in advance of the requested action.

16 (1) (~~For the examination of an application for a permit to~~
17 ~~appropriate water, a minimum fee of fifty dollars must be remitted with~~
18 ~~the application.~~

19 ~~For an amount of water exceeding one-half cubic foot per second,~~
20 ~~the examination fee shall be assessed at the rate of one dollar per one~~
21 ~~hundredth cubic foot per second. In no case will the examination fee~~
22 ~~be less than fifty dollars or more than twenty-five thousand dollars.~~
23 ~~No fee is required under this subsection (1) for an application filed~~
24 ~~by a party to a cost reimbursement agreement made under RCW~~
25 ~~90.03.265.)) For the examination of an application for a permit to~~
26 ~~appropriate water or for an application to change, transfer, or amend~~
27 ~~an existing water right, an examination fee equal to thirty-five~~
28 ~~dollars for each one-hundredth of a cubic foot per second must be~~

1 remitted with the application, but in no case may the examination fee
2 be less than one thousand dollars or more than thirty-five thousand
3 dollars.

4 (2) The following fees apply for the examination of an application
5 to store water(, a fee of two dollars for each acre foot of storage
6 proposed shall be charged, but a minimum fee of fifty dollars must be
7 remitted with the application. In no case will the examination fee for
8 a storage project be less than fifty dollars or more than twenty-five
9 thousand dollars. No fee is required under this subsection (2) for an
10 application filed by a party to a cost-reimbursement agreement made
11 under RCW 90.03.265)) and for an application to change a storage right:

12 (a) For storage of less than one hundred acre feet of water, an
13 examination fee of one thousand dollars must be remitted with the
14 application.

15 (b) For storage of more than one hundred acre feet of water but
16 less than or equal to one thousand acre feet of water, an examination
17 fee of two thousand dollars must be remitted with the application.

18 (c) For storage of more than one thousand acre feet of water but
19 less than or equal to ten thousand acre feet of water, an examination
20 fee of seven thousand five hundred dollars must be remitted with the
21 application.

22 (d) For storage of more than ten thousand acre feet of water, an
23 examination fee of fifteen thousand dollars must be remitted with the
24 application.

25 (3)(a) ~~((For the examination of an application to transfer, change,~~
26 ~~or amend a water right certificate, permit, or claim as authorized by~~
27 ~~RCW 90.44.100, 90.44.105, or 90.03.380, a minimum fee of fifty dollars~~
28 ~~must be remitted with the application. For an application for change~~
29 ~~involving an amount of water exceeding one cubic foot per second, the~~
30 ~~total examination fee shall be assessed at the rate of fifty cents per~~
31 ~~one hundredth cubic foot per second. For an application for change of~~
32 ~~a storage water right, the total examination fee shall be assessed at~~
33 ~~the rate of one dollar for each acre foot of water involved in the~~
34 ~~change. The fee shall be based on the amount of water subject to~~
35 ~~change as proposed in the application, not on the total amount of water~~
36 ~~reflected in the water right certificate, permit, or claim. In no case~~
37 ~~will the examination fee charged for a change application be less than~~
38 ~~fifty dollars or more than twelve thousand five hundred dollars.~~

1 ~~(b))~~ (i) The fee paid to the department for an application for
2 change filed with a water conservancy board under chapter 90.80 RCW
3 must be one-fifth of the amounts provided in subsections (1) and (2) of
4 this section. A conservancy board may charge its own processing fees
5 in accordance with RCW 90.80.060.

6 (ii) The fees in subsections (1) and (2) of this section do not
7 apply to applicants that have entered into a cost-reimbursement
8 agreement with the department under RCW 90.03.265.

9 (b) The examination fee for a temporary or seasonal change under
10 RCW 90.03.390 is ~~((fifty))~~ two hundred dollars and must be remitted
11 with the application.

12 (c) No fee is required under this subsection (3) for:

13 (i) An application to process a change relating to donation of a
14 trust water right to the state; or

15 (ii) An application to process a change when the department
16 otherwise acquires a trust water right for purposes of improving
17 instream flows or for other public purposes(~~(+~~

18 ~~(iii) An application filed with a water conservancy board according~~
19 ~~to chapter 90.80 RCW or for the review of a water conservancy board's~~
20 ~~record of decision submitted to the department according to chapter~~
21 ~~90.80 RCW; or~~

22 ~~(iv) An application filed by a party to a cost reimbursement~~
23 ~~agreement made under RCW 90.03.265)).~~

24 (d) For a change, transfer, or amendment involving a single project
25 operating under more than one water right, including related secondary
26 diversion rights, or involving the consolidation of multiple water
27 rights, only one examination fee and one certificate fee are required
28 to be paid.

29 ~~(4) ((The fifty-dollar minimum fee payable with the application~~
30 ~~shall be a credit to the total amount whenever the examination fee~~
31 ~~totals more than fifty dollars under the schedule specified in~~
32 ~~subsections (1) through (3) of this section and in such case the~~
33 ~~further fee due shall be the total computed amount, less the amount~~
34 ~~previously paid. Within five working days from receipt of an~~
35 ~~application, the department shall notify the applicant by registered~~
36 ~~mail of any additional fees due under subsections (1) through (3) of~~
37 ~~this section.))~~ (a) The fee amounts specified in this section apply to
38 applications received after the effective date of this section and to

1 all applications that have not been acted on by the department by
2 issuance of a report of examination as of the effective date of this
3 section. For pending applications that were filed prior to the
4 effective date of this section, any fees that were paid under a
5 previous fee schedule must be credited to the amounts required by
6 subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section. When the department is
7 prepared to take action on an application that was filed prior to the
8 effective date of this section, the department shall notify the
9 applicant that additional fees are due and give the applicant sixty
10 days to remit the additional fees. If the applicant fails to remit the
11 additional fees within the time provided, the department shall cancel
12 the application and inform the applicant of the cancellation.

13 (b) If the department receives a water right, change, transfer,
14 amendment, or storage application that does not include remittance of
15 the fee amounts required by this section, the department shall return
16 the application to the applicant with instructions on the proper fee
17 amount to be remitted. An application does not establish a priority
18 date until the proper fee is remitted.

19 ~~(5) The ((fees specified in subsections (1) through (3) of this~~
20 ~~section do not apply to any filings)) fee for filing an emergency~~
21 ~~withdrawal authorization((s)) or temporary drought-related water right~~
22 ~~change((s)) authorized under RCW 43.83B.410 that ((are)) is received by~~
23 ~~the department while a drought condition order issued under RCW~~
24 ~~43.83B.405 is in effect is one hundred dollars.~~

25 (6) For applying for each extension of time for beginning
26 construction work under a permit to appropriate water, for completion
27 of construction work, or for completing application of water to a
28 beneficial use, a fee of two hundred fifty dollars is required. These
29 fees also apply to similar extensions of time requested under a change
30 or transfer authorization.

31 (7) For the inspection of any hydraulic works to ~~((insure))~~ ensure
32 safety to life and property, a fee based on the actual cost of the
33 inspection, including the expense incident thereto, is required
34 ~~((except as follows: (a) For any hydraulic works less than ten years~~
35 ~~old, that the department examined and approved the construction plans~~
36 ~~and specifications as to its safety when required under RCW 90.03.350,~~
37 ~~there shall be no fee charged; or (b) for any hydraulic works more than~~
38 ~~ten years old, but less than twenty years old, that the department~~

1 ~~examined and approved the construction plans and specifications as to~~
2 ~~its safety when required under RCW 90.03.350, the fee charged shall not~~
3 ~~exceed the fee for a significant hazard dam)).~~

4 (8) For the examination of plans and specifications as to safety of
5 controlling works for storage of ten acre feet or more of water, a
6 minimum fee of ~~((ten))~~ five hundred dollars, or a fee equal to the
7 actual cost, is required.

8 (9) For recording an assignment either of a permit to appropriate
9 water or of an application for such a permit, a fee of ~~((fifty))~~ two
10 hundred dollars is required.

11 (10) For preparing and issuing all water right certificates, a fee
12 of ~~((fifty))~~ two hundred dollars is required.

13 (11) For filing and recording a formal protest against granting any
14 application, a fee of fifty dollars is required. No fee is required to
15 submit a comment, by mail or otherwise, regarding an application.

16 (12) For filing an application to amend a water right claim filed
17 under chapter 90.14 RCW, a fee of ~~((fifty))~~ two hundred dollars is
18 required.

19 (13)(a) Each person who holds a water right permit application, a
20 reservoir permit application, or a change, transfer, or amendment
21 application that is pending at any time between the effective date of
22 this section and June 30, 2011, must remit a one-time fee of two
23 hundred dollars to the department to retain an application in good
24 standing. The department shall provide written notice by certified
25 mail to each holder of an application for the fees that are due under
26 this section. The notice must require that the fees be paid within
27 sixty days of the date of receipt, but in no case may payment be due
28 later than June 30, 2011. For ease of administration, the department
29 may distribute the issuance of the notices by geographic area. The
30 surcharge paid under this subsection is a credit against the
31 application fees required in this section.

32 (b) Applications not in good standing must be canceled. The
33 department shall issue an order to any holder of an application who
34 fails to pay the fee within the prescribed time. The order must state
35 that the application is canceled unless payment is received within
36 thirty days.

37 (c) The department shall advise an applicant and provide an
38 opportunity for an applicant to withdraw their application without

1 further payment of fees if the department determines that the
2 application would not likely be approved. The department shall
3 summarize the basis for its conclusion to the applicant. The
4 department shall further advise that the applicant has the option of
5 providing an amended application that could include storage or other
6 resource management technique that might make it approvable under RCW
7 90.03.255 or 90.44.055. The department's advice is not subject to
8 appeal. If the applicant decides to retain the application on file and
9 pays the fee required in this subsection, the department shall maintain
10 the application in good standing until it is able to render a final
11 decision on the application. The final decision is subject to appeal
12 to the pollution control hearings board as provided under chapter
13 43.21B RCW.

14 (14) An application or request for an action as provided for under
15 this section is incomplete unless accompanied by the fee or the minimum
16 fee. If no fee or an amount less than the minimum fee accompanies an
17 application or other request for an action as provided under this
18 section, the department shall return the application or request to the
19 applicant with advice as to the fee that must be remitted with the
20 application or request for it to be accepted for processing. If
21 additional fees are due, the department shall provide timely
22 notification by certified mail with return receipt requested to the
23 applicant. No action may be taken by the department until the fee is
24 paid in full. Failure to remit fees within sixty days of the
25 department's notification is grounds for rejecting the application or
26 request or canceling the permit. Cash shall not be accepted. Fees
27 must be paid by check or money order and are nonrefundable.

28 ((+14)) (15) For purposes of calculating fees for groundwater
29 filings, one cubic foot per second shall be regarded as equivalent to
30 four hundred fifty gallons per minute.

31 ((+15) Eighty percent of the fees collected by the department under
32 this section shall be deposited in the state general fund. Twenty
33 percent of the fees collected by the department under this section
34 shall be deposited in the water rights tracking system account
35 established in RCW 90.14.240.

36 (16) Except for the fees relating to the inspection of hydraulic
37 works and the examination of plans and specifications of controlling
38 works provided for in subsections (7) and (8) of this section, nothing

1 ~~in this section is intended to grant authority to the department to~~
2 ~~amend the fees in this section by adoption of rules or otherwise.)~~)
3 (16) The fees collected by the department under this section must be
4 deposited in the water rights processing and dam safety account created
5 in section 16 of this act.

6 (17)(a) The fees specified in this section are effective until the
7 department adopts rules that modify them in accordance with section 19
8 of this act, except that the fees required in subsections (7) and (8)
9 of this section may be modified at any time.

10 (b) When information has been previously obtained that directly
11 relates to the processing of an application in subsections (1) and (2)
12 of this section, the department must proportionately reduce the fees
13 associated with that application as a result of the reduced workload of
14 the department.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 18. A new section is added to chapter 90.03 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) The department must establish by rule a program for the
18 distribution of hardship grant money to assist applicants in the
19 payment of fees required in RCW 90.03.470.

20 (2) The department shall submit the list of hardship applicants
21 that meet the qualifications established by the department in this
22 section along with the applicant's requested grant amount to the office
23 of financial management for consideration in the governor's budget
24 request.

25 (3) The department shall also provide the list of hardship
26 applicants that meet the qualifications established by the department
27 in this section along with the applicant's requested grant amount to
28 the legislature by October 1st of each year.

29 NEW SECTION. Sec. 19. A new section is added to chapter 90.03 RCW
30 to read as follows:

31 The department may periodically adopt rules to adjust the fees
32 established in RCW 90.03.470. Any subsequent fees adopted by rule
33 supersede those provided in RCW 90.03.470. Before proposing to adopt
34 any changes to the fees, the department shall consult with the policy
35 committees of the legislature that review water resources legislation.

