

1730-S

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Agriculture & Ecology (originally sponsored by Representatives Chandler, Schoesler and Grant)

Brief Title: Changing provisions relating to sufficient cause for nonuse of water rights.

HB 1730-S.E - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS PASSED LEGISLATURE)

Provides that suspension of activity imposed under federal or state laws that prevent or restrict water use is sufficient cause for nonuse of water rights for the purposes of RCW 90.14.130 through 90.14.180.

Declares that if federal or state laws prevent or restrict water use otherwise authorized under the permit, the department shall extend the time or times fixed for commencing work, completing work, and applying water to beneficial use and the extension shall be for a period that is not less than the period of nonuse or restricted use caused by the federal or state laws.

VETO MESSAGE ON HB 1730-S

May 14, 1997

To the Honorable Speaker and Members,

The House of Representatives of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1730 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to sufficient cause for nonuse of water rights;"

Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1730 could result in water right permits that would remain in suspension indefinitely if other laws delayed or prohibited completion of development and use of the water. Having rights to substantial amounts of water indefinitely in suspension would make planning and water allocation for present needs unworkable. This bill could also provide an opportunity for abuse of the relinquishment statutes.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1730 in its entirety.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Locke
Governor