

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 2771

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As of February 18, 2000

**Title:** An act relating to amendments to statements of claim in the water rights claims registry.

**Brief Description:** Changing amendments to water rights claims.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Mastin, Grant, Cox and Schoesler.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Environmental Quality & Water Resources: 2/22/2000.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & WATER RESOURCES

**Staff:** Genevieve Pisarski (786-7488)

**Background:** In 1969, the state created a water rights claims registry. Persons claiming the right to use water on the basis of authority other than a water right permit or certificate were required to file a statement of claim by 1974. Failure to do so was conclusively deemed to be a waiver and relinquishment of any water right. During 1979 and 1985, however, filing of claims was again allowed, provided that the claims were certified by the Pollution Control Hearings Board.

In 1987, persons having a statement of claim on file at that time were allowed to file amendments, provided that the amendments were either ministerial or based on erroneous estimation of quantity or based on unforeseeable changes in the manner of transportation or diversion.

During 1997 and 1998, the filing of claims was again allowed. During this filing period, the Department of Ecology was required to publish notice monthly, publicize necessary information, and dedicate staff to assisting claimants.

**Summary of Bill:** Claims filed in the water rights claims registry during any authorized filing period can be amended as provided.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.