

2 **SHB 2874** - S AMD 805

3 By Senators Fraser and Morton

4 ADOPTED 03/08/02

5 On page 1, after line 5, insert the following:

6 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that delivery of
7 Columbia basin project water through canals and its application to land
8 through irrigation over approximately the past fifty years has
9 dramatically affected ground water in the Pasco basin, located in
10 western Franklin county, along the Columbia river and north of the city
11 of Pasco. According to studies conducted by the United States
12 geological survey, the volume of ground water has increased by about
13 five million acre-feet. About eighty-five percent of this increase is
14 the result of percolation following irrigation and seepage from the
15 distribution system. Ground water levels have also risen as a result
16 of reservoirs formed behind the dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers.
17 As a result of drainage management, the system is reported to be at
18 equilibrium. The studies provide the information needed to determine
19 which ground water is a result of the project and which is naturally
20 occurring. Potential problems associated with the raised ground water
21 levels include landslides and loss of arable land through ponding.
22 Benefits include dilution of concentrations of nitrate and increase in
23 volume of water potentially available for beneficial use over the
24 naturally occurring volume otherwise available.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** It is the intent of the legislature to grant
26 authority to the department of ecology to enter into agreements with
27 the United States for allocation of ground waters that exist as a
28 result of the Columbia basin project, adopt rules for implementing the
29 agreements and establishing priorities for processing applications, and
30 accept funds for expenses incurred, consistent with applicable state
31 and federal law. Inasmuch as rules adopted by the department will be
32 significant legislative rules, the legislature intends to assure that
33 it will be able to properly carry out its responsibility to both give
34 direction and review the rules after their adoption by requiring
35 periodic reports by the department."

1 Renumber the remaining section consecutively.

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5 On page 2, after line 9, insert the following:

6 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 89.12 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 The department of ecology shall report annually to the standing
9 committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over water resources
10 regarding the activities authorized by section 3 of this act, beginning
11 December 1, 2002, and ending December 1, 2007."

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15 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "allocation of" strike the
16 remainder of the title and insert "ground waters that exist as a result
17 of the Columbia basin project; adding new sections to chapter 89.12
18 RCW; and creating new sections."

EFFECT: Adds findings and intent. Adds reporting requirement.

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