
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2449

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By House Committee on Agriculture & Ecology (originally sponsored by Representatives Delvin, Foreman, Chandler, Mastin, Honeyford, Clements, Koster, Boldt, Schoesler, Robertson, Silver, Mulliken and Johnson)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to water resource management; creating new
2 sections; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Voluntary water transfers between water users, including water
6 transfers derived from conservation and efficiency improvements, may
7 reallocate water use in a manner that will result in more efficient use
8 of water resources; and

9 (2) Voluntary water transfers may help alleviate water shortages,
10 save capital outlays, reduce development costs, and provide an
11 incentive for investment in water conservation efforts by water right
12 holders.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A legislative joint select committee on
14 water transfers is created. The committee shall be composed of eight
15 members appointed as follows:

16 (a) Four members of the house of representatives appointed by the
17 speaker of the house, two from each political party caucus in the house
18 of representatives; and

1 (b) Four members of the senate appointed by the president of the
2 senate, two from each political party caucus in the senate.

3 (2) From among its members, the committee shall elect cochairs, one
4 who is a member of the house of representatives and one who is a member
5 of the senate.

6 (3) The committee shall examine the subject of voluntary transfers
7 of water and water rights between willing parties and make
8 recommendations regarding:

9 (a) Incentives that this state should provide to encourage such
10 voluntary transfers of water rights from one person to another;

11 (b) Policies or mechanisms that would streamline such transfers of
12 water;

13 (c) The principles that should apply to such voluntary transfers
14 that involve the permanent sale of rights to the use of water and, if
15 different policies are appropriate, those that should apply to
16 temporary transfers, such as short water year leases;

17 (d) The protection of water rights other than those directly
18 involved in a water transfer transaction;

19 (e) Types of water transfers that may be presumed not to affect
20 adversely other rights to water and whether state law should treat such
21 transfers differently than it treats other transfers;

22 (f) Transfers of rights to water used seasonally to rights to water
23 used all year; and

24 (g) The circumstances under which the effects of proposed transfers
25 on the vitality of the communities from which the water uses originate
26 should be considered.

27 (4) The committee shall report its recommendations in the form of
28 proposed legislation to the appropriate committees of the house of
29 representatives and the senate by December 31, 1996.

30 (5) Staff support for the committee shall be provided by the house
31 of representatives and the senate.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act shall expire December 31, 1996.

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