(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 2ND SUB)

Expands the department of ecology's water right cost-reimbursement agreement program.

Requires the department to establish a list of certified water right examiners.

Authorizes the department to: (1) Determine that no water remains available for appropriation from a water source and provides for notification to pending applicants of the water source; and

(2) Hire contractors who will investigate the disposition of a water right application.

Clarifies how a water right claim may be changed or amended.