

1 **SHB 1236 - H COMM AMD ADOPTED 03-16-93**

2 By Committee on Revenue

3 On page 8, after line 20, strike all material through line 24  
4 on page 9 and insert the following:

5 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. (1) There is created a water rights fees  
6 task force. The task force shall be comprised of fourteen members,  
7 who are appointed as follows:

8 (a) Two members of the Washington state house of  
9 representatives, one from each major caucus, to be appointed by the  
10 speaker of the house;

11 (b) Two members of the Washington state senate, one from each  
12 major caucus, to be appointed by the president of the senate;

13 (c) Ten members, to be appointed jointly by the speaker of the  
14 house of representatives and the president of the senate, to  
15 represent the following interests: Agriculture, aquaculture,  
16 business, cities, counties, the state department of ecology,  
17 environmentalists, water recreation interests, water utilities, and  
18 hydropower interests. The task force may establish technical  
19 advisory committees as necessary to complete its tasks.

20 (2) The task force shall conduct a comprehensive review of  
21 water rights fees and related policy issues. The task force's  
22 tasks shall include but not be limited to:

23 (a) Identification of the costs associated with the various  
24 types of activities and services provided in the water resource  
25 program and examination of how these costs compare with the fees  
26 charged for these activities and services;

27 (b) Identification of appropriate accountability measures for  
28 the department to employ in administration of the water rights  
29 program. Recommendations of accountability requirements and  
30 measurements shall take into account the distinctive

1 characteristics of the water rights program, that is, that the  
2 department receives a large number of applications on a one-time  
3 basis and that the department must meet its legal obligations under  
4 the doctrine of prior appropriation.

5 (c) Identification of which program activities should be  
6 eligible for cost recovery from fees, as well as which direct and  
7 indirect costs of program administration;

8 (d) Review of the application, examination, and water rights  
9 permit requirements for marine water users, to determine if these  
10 users should receive special consideration;

11 (e) Review of the definition and treatment of nonconsumptive  
12 water uses, to determine if and what special consideration should  
13 be given to these uses;

14 (f) Review of the fees and accounting methods for the dam  
15 safety program;

16 (g) Review of the findings of the water resource data  
17 management task force, and identification of the appropriate  
18 distribution of responsibility between the applicant and the  
19 department for provision of technical information and analysis; and

20 (h) Establishment of a reasonable time framework for  
21 completion of new and pending water rights applications, and an  
22 analysis of the staff and funding levels required to meet the  
23 established time framework."

EFFECT: Adds two new interest groups to the task force (water recreation interests and hydropower interests), and adds a new task regarding data management and responsibility for technical information and analysis.