
SENATE BILL 6099

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Eide, Swecker, Spanel, Fraser and Jacobsen

Read first time 04/15/1999. Referred to Committee on Environmental Quality & Water Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to water resources changes and transfers; adding a
2 new section to chapter 90.03 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that changes and
5 transfers under the water code are an important means of satisfying
6 existing and future water demands in the state. Voluntary water
7 transfers improve the administration of the state's existing water
8 resources by increasing the flexibility of water supply and allocation,
9 particularly during droughts and other water shortages. Creative
10 approaches to reallocation of water usage through transfers and changes
11 provide opportunities to address streamflow augmentation to address
12 salmon recovery needs as well as to address water supply needs for
13 growing communities and new industrial, commercial, and agricultural
14 activities. Therefore it is the purpose of this act to clarify the
15 water code and to eliminate unwise doctrinal barriers that impede or
16 prevent parties from pursuing innovative transfer agreements, while
17 assuring that other recognized water rights and uses are protected.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 90.03 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The department shall accord priority to the processing of
4 applications for transfers and changes in water rights.

5 (2) The department in its discretion may process applications for
6 transfers or changes regarding water uses in a basin independently of
7 the order of processing or priority placed upon processing applications
8 for new withdrawals within the same basin, and independently of the
9 order of processing or priority placed upon any applications regarding
10 water use in other basins.

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