

2257

Sponsor(s): Representatives Clements and G. Chandler

Brief Description: Regarding withdrawals under drought conditions.

**HB 2257 - DIGEST**

Provides that, upon the issuance of an order under RCW 43.83B.405, the department of ecology is empowered to authorize emergency withdrawal of public surface and ground waters, including dead storage within reservoirs, on a temporary basis and authorize associated physical works which may be either temporary or permanent.

Requires that the proposed withdrawal will not reduce flows or levels below essential minimums necessary (1) to assure the maintenance of fisheries requirements through flows or levels that have been specified prior to the issuance under RCW 43.83B.405 of the order regarding drought conditions, and (2) to protect federal and state interests including, among others, power generation, navigation, and existing water rights.

Declares that the interests and rights to be protected under this provision are those that have been quantified either through the issuance of a permit or certificate under this chapter or chapter 90.44 or 90.46 RCW or the filing of a water right claim under chapter 90.14 RCW.