

2564-S2

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives McCoy, Linville, Conway, Rockefeller, Sullivan, McDermott, Ormsby, Hunt, Lovick, Moeller, Kenney, McIntire, Kagi and Clibborn)

Brief Description: Authorizing a pilot program for the settlement of water rights.

HB 2564-S2 - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 2ND SUBSTITUTE)

Finds that state water law must take into account rights to water based in both state and federal law, including treaties between the federal government and Indian tribes located within the state of Washington.

Finds that it is in the interest of the people of the state, the nation, and Indian tribes located within the state to achieve greater certainty and security regarding the respective water rights based on state and federal law.

Finds that the federal government is actively pursuing resolution of federal and tribal water rights, and has initiated and proposed both informal and formal proceedings to determine federal and tribal rights to water in Washington state.

Declares an intent to direct the state to actively participate in these federal proceedings to represent the interests of the state, to protect rights of water users that rely on state-based water rights, and to ensure that these processes are conducted in a fair and respectful manner.

Requires the state negotiating team to report its findings and recommendations to the governor and appropriate legislative committees by January 1, 2006.