

5333

Sponsor(s): Senators Parlette, Fraser, Honeyford, B. Sheldon, Hale, Doumit and Hewitt; by request of Governor Locke

Brief Description: Clarifying and consolidating procedures for trust water rights and authorizing creation of water banks.

SB 5333 - DIGEST

Finds that the trust water rights program is an important tool in meeting the state's current and future needs for water, both instream and out-of-stream.

Finds that the existing procedures for establishing trust water rights are unnecessarily complex, and are difficult to explain and administer.

Declares that groups currently developing local watershed plans and regional water management programs are seeking an effective means to facilitate multiple, voluntary transfers of existing water rights to address presently unmet needs and future needs.

Declares an intent to enhance the effectiveness of the trust water rights program by improving existing incentives, removing disincentives, clarifying and consolidating procedures for establishing trust water rights, and authorizing the creation of water banks.

Repeals provisions of chapters 90.38 and 90.42 RCW.