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HOUSE BILL 3141

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Halper, Grant, Clements, Newhouse, Hankins and Chandler

Read first time 01/23/2006. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying the competing interests of domestic  
2 water users and other water users in regards to limited water supplies  
3 where a curtailment of domestic water right use has been enacted; and  
4 creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of ecology shall, by  
7 December 31, 2006, study and prepare a report to the appropriate  
8 committees of the legislature on ways that the department and other  
9 stakeholders can better understand the competing interests of domestic  
10 surface water users and other surface water users in regards to limited  
11 water supplies who are affected by a curtailment of domestic water  
12 right use that has been enacted by a court order.

13 (2) The study conducted under this section shall be limited to  
14 basins currently involved in a water rights adjudication and must:

15 (a) Provide a summary of the circumstances that have contributed to  
16 the competition between domestic water users and other water users;

17 (b) Include a survey involving the owners of the residences; and

18 (c) Recommend suggested legislation or other solutions for

1 resolving conflicts between competing interests for a limited water  
2 resource.

3 (3) The study shall focus on seasonal residential uses; however,  
4 other permanent residences may be included if the owners are  
5 experiencing similar problems.

6 (4) When surveying residents under this section, the department  
7 shall make a reasonable attempt to contact all property owners and  
8 obtain, at a minimum, the following information:

9 (a) The location of the seasonal or permanent residence and the  
10 number of days that the residence is in use;

11 (b) The months that the residence is occupied;

12 (c) Whether the property has a water right and relevant information  
13 of the water right;

14 (d) The amount of water needed for the residence when it is  
15 occupied;

16 (e) The specific use of the water used by the property owner;

17 (f) The location of the permanent residence of the property owner;

18 and

19 (g) Any other relevant information that the department determines  
20 is necessary for the survey.

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