
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6278

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Carlyle, Braun, Van De Wege, Rolfes, Nguyen, Saldaña, Das, Billig, and Hasegawa)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to water withdrawals for commercial bottled water
2 production; and amending RCW 90.03.290.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 90.03.290 and 2018 c 1 s 303 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) When an application complying with the provisions of this
7 chapter and with the rules of the department has been filed, the same
8 shall be placed on record with the department, and it shall be its
9 duty to investigate the application, and determine what water, if
10 any, is available for appropriation, and find and determine to what
11 beneficial use or uses it can be applied. If it is proposed to
12 appropriate water for irrigation purposes, the department shall
13 investigate, determine and find what lands are capable of irrigation
14 by means of water found available for appropriation. If it is
15 proposed to appropriate water for the purpose of power development,
16 the department shall investigate, determine and find whether the
17 proposed development is likely to prove detrimental to the public
18 interest, having in mind the highest feasible use of the waters
19 belonging to the public.

20 (2)(a) If the application does not contain, and the applicant
21 does not promptly furnish sufficient information on which to base

1 such findings, the department may issue a preliminary permit, for a
2 period of not to exceed three years, requiring the applicant to make
3 such surveys, investigations, studies, and progress reports, as in
4 the opinion of the department may be necessary. If the applicant
5 fails to comply with the conditions of the preliminary permit, it and
6 the application or applications on which it is based shall be
7 automatically canceled and the applicant so notified. If the holder
8 of a preliminary permit shall, before its expiration, file with the
9 department a verified report of expenditures made and work done under
10 the preliminary permit, which, in the opinion of the department,
11 establishes the good faith, intent, and ability of the applicant to
12 carry on the proposed development, the preliminary permit may, with
13 the approval of the governor, be extended, but not to exceed a
14 maximum period of five years from the date of the issuance of the
15 preliminary permit.

16 (b) For any application for which a preliminary permit was issued
17 and for which the availability of water was directly affected by a
18 moratorium on further diversions from the Columbia river during the
19 years from 1990 to 1998, the preliminary permit is extended through
20 June 30, 2002. If such an application and preliminary permit were
21 canceled during the moratorium, the application and preliminary
22 permit shall be reinstated until June 30, 2002, if the application
23 and permit: (i) Are for providing regional water supplies in more
24 than one urban growth area designated under chapter 36.70A RCW and in
25 one or more areas near such urban growth areas, or the application
26 and permit are modified for providing such supplies, and (ii) provide
27 or are modified to provide such regional supplies through the use of
28 existing intake or diversion structures. The authority to modify such
29 a canceled application and permit to accomplish the objectives of
30 (b)(i) and (ii) of this subsection is hereby granted.

31 (3) The department shall make and file as part of the record in
32 the matter, written findings of fact concerning all things
33 investigated, and if it shall find that there is water available for
34 appropriation for a beneficial use, and the appropriation thereof as
35 proposed in the application will not impair existing rights or be
36 detrimental to the public welfare, it shall issue a permit stating
37 the amount of water to which the applicant shall be entitled and the
38 beneficial use or uses to which it may be applied: PROVIDED, That
39 where the water applied for is to be used for irrigation purposes, it
40 shall become appurtenant only to such land as may be reclaimed

1 thereby to the full extent of the soil for agricultural purposes. But
2 where there is no unappropriated water in the proposed source of
3 supply, or where the proposed use conflicts with existing rights, or
4 threatens to prove detrimental to the public interest, having due
5 regard to the highest feasible development of the use of the waters
6 belonging to the public, it shall be duty of the department to reject
7 such application and to refuse to issue the permit asked for.

8 (4) (a) For the purposes of applications for new water withdrawals
9 received after January 1, 2019, and considered pursuant to this
10 section, any use of water for the commercial production of bottled
11 water is deemed to be detrimental to the public welfare and the
12 public interest.

13 (b) For the purposes of this subsection, "bottled water" includes
14 all water that is labeled or marketed for sale as "water" in
15 containers, including plastic bottles. "Bottled water" also includes
16 the category of bottled waters known as "spring water" or "enhanced
17 waters," but does not include any other product made from water that
18 is not marketed as "water." This limitation does not apply if there
19 is a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to RCW 43.06.010 or an
20 order or drought emergency issued pursuant to RCW 43.83B.405. This
21 limitation does not apply if there is a public health emergency and
22 bottled water is needed because of a public water system's inability
23 to provide water service to its customers.

24 (c) This subsection does not apply to an application from a
25 municipal water supplier.

26 (5) If the permit is refused because of conflict with existing
27 rights and such applicant shall acquire same by purchase or
28 condemnation under RCW 90.03.040, the department may thereupon grant
29 such permit. Any application may be approved for a less amount of
30 water than that applied for, if there exists substantial reason
31 therefor, and in any event shall not be approved for more water than
32 can be applied to beneficial use for the purposes named in the
33 application. In determining whether or not a permit shall issue upon
34 any application, it shall be the duty of the department to
35 investigate all facts relevant and material to the application. After
36 the department approves said application in whole or in part and
37 before any permit shall be issued thereon to the applicant, such
38 applicant shall pay the fee provided in RCW 90.03.470: PROVIDED
39 FURTHER, That in the event a permit is issued by the department upon

1 any application, it shall be its duty to notify the director of fish
2 and wildlife of such issuance.

3 ~~((5))~~ (6) The requirements of subsections (1) and (3) of this
4 section do not apply to water resource mitigation pilot projects for
5 which permits are issued in reliance upon water resource mitigation
6 of impacts to instream flows and closed surface water bodies under
7 RCW 90.94.090.

--- END ---