

## HB 2142 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Water

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**Prepared By:** Allison Daniel, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 1/28, 4/13

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Increases certain fees charged by Water Resources Department and creates fee for additional points of appropriation included in application for approval of change to existing water right or permit. Applies measure retroactively to July 1, 2021. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Modifications to water right transactions and dam safety fee schedules
- History of litigation cases involving Water Resources Department
- Timeline for water right application process

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2009, the legislature restructured many of the Water Resources Department's (WRD) water right fees. WRD has since brought forward legislation to modify the water right transactions fee schedule every four years. The current fee schedule, enacted in 2017, provides revenues of about \$2.4 million to fund 24 positions in the Water Right Services Division, the Groundwater Section of the Technical Services Division, and the Administrative Services Division. The current Dam Safety Annual Fee schedule provides about \$300k to fund two positions in the Dam Safety program. The Department of Administrative Services projects state employee personnel costs to increase by 17.39 percent for 2021-2025. The fee increase, as proposed, will allow WRD to retain 2.5 FTE of the 8.83 FTE reduced in package 070 of the Governor's Budget.

House Bill 2142 would increase fees charged by WRD by approximately 17.39 percent averaged over a four-year period and create a new fee for additional points of appropriation included in an application for approval of a change to an existing water right or permit.