

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 2803

Relating to fees concerning water

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Owens

HB 2803 increases various fees administered by the Water Resources Department for water right transactions and dam safety.

The water right transaction fees and the dam safety fees are reviewed every four years, and the fee schedule was last modified in 2021.

The measure raises most water right transaction fees by 50% and raises dam safety fees in a range between 56% and 58%. These fee increases are anticipated to generate a total of approximately \$1.4 million in Other Funds revenue for water right transaction processing and dam safety activities. The revenue shortfall for water right transactions is estimated to be \$2.2 million in the 2025-27 biennium. Since 2009, the program has been supported by both fee revenue and General Fund. An appropriation of \$1.3 million General Fund is included in the Department's budget bill, SB 5543, to cover the additional shortfall and restore all 7 positions abolished in the agency's revenue shortfall package.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 2803 be reported out do pass.