

HB 2803 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Helm

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Action Date: 06/17/25

Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

House Vote

Yeas: 8 - Bowman, Evans, Gomberg, Levy E, Owens, Ruiz, Sanchez, Valderrama

Nays: 4 - Breese-Iverson, Cate, Drazan, Smith G

Senate Vote

Yeas: 6 - Broadman, Campos, Frederick, Lieber, Manning Jr, Sollman

Nays: 4 - Anderson, Bonham, Girod, McLane

Exc: 1 - Smith DB

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: April McDonald, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/10, 6/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure increases certain fees charged by the Water Resources Department for water right transactions and dam safety.

Detailed Summary

Increases fees charged by the Water Resources Department (WRD) for the following purposes:

- Examining water right permit applications
- Permits to appropriate or store water
- Filing and recording the assignment or partial assignment of a water right application, permit or license
- Copying records in the department, or having documents certified, blueprinted, or computer-generated
- Examining permanent and temporary water transfer applications, or obtaining a copy of the proposed final order and a final order for a water right application
- Modifying a certificate of registration
- Submitting a water right protest, requesting standing in a contested case hearing or participating in a requested case hearing
- Filing an application for extension of the time period during which a water right has to be perfected
- Limited licenses to use or store surface and groundwater
- Filing, examining, and certifying district maps
- Examining water storage applications, or applications for an allocation of conserved water
- Submitting a notice of intent to continue operation of a state project or use water for hydroelectric purposes
- Submitting a water management and conservation plan
- Examining new and renewal applications for in-stream water right leases
- Submitting a claim of beneficial use under a permit or transfer
- Submitting a request for a basin plan exemption
- Annual fees charged to dam owners based upon the dam's hazard rating
- Certain registration statements

Adds an additional fee tier for secondary water storage for hydroelectric projects. Declares an emergency, effective on passage. Applies retroactively, if Act becomes law after July 1, 2025, for fees charged for services provided on or after July 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact of the measure

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

HB 2803 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

- Impact of the adopted -3 amendment on the agency's revenues

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2009, the legislature restructured many of the water right transaction fees for the Water Resources Department. The Department has since brought forward legislation to modify the water right transaction fee schedule every four years. Staff in both the Dam Safety and Water Right Services programs are partially supported by fees. The current fee schedule provides \$330k to support 0.95 FTE in the Dam Safety program and \$2.35 million to fund 14.93 FTE across the Water Right Services Division, the Groundwater Section, and Water Right Data Technicians.