

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Without Recommendation as to Passage and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Boone, Cowan, Esquivel, Johnson, Schaufler, Sprenger, Clem, Jenson
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Beth Herzog, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/6, 4/11

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows district to change place of use of water right on lands within district without transfer approval by Water Resources Department (WRD) if district meets certain conditions. Stipulates that WRD may require change to cease when district does not meet conditions, change involves change other than place of use, or change injures other water right holders. Subjects WRD decisions to hearings process and requires WRD to specify actions district can take for change to qualify. Repeals pilot program allowing certain districts to change place of use of water right without WRD approval.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Hearing for the purpose of sending House Bill 3459 to Joint Committee on Ways and Means

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The 2003 Legislative Assembly established a pilot program to allow for the temporary transfer of water rights between water right holders of three irrigation districts without requiring a formal transfer process or fee. In 2009, Senate Bill 664 expanded the program to include 15 irrigation districts and extended the pilot program thru June 30, 2016. House Bill 3459 would repeal the pilot program and allow any district to change the place of use of a water right on lands within the district without a transfer approval by the WRD.