

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Clem, Esquivel, Krieger, McKeown, Reardon, Thompson, Unger, Witt
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Whitsett
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Beth Patrino, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/14, 4/16

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Sets fee for limited license for mining purpose at \$250 regardless of number of diversions. Repeals sunset on 2009 fee levels. Authorizes Water Resources Commission to adopt rules to increase fees by lesser of two percent per year or percent increase in consumer price index since previous fee increase. Directs Water Resources Department to report to 78<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly on fees no later than February 1, 2015. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- 2009 cost recovery goal of 50/50 funding split between General Fund and fees
- Current fee levels and changes over time
- Consequences of fee increases, transaction backlogs and delays

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces measure.

**BACKGROUND:** The Water Resources Department (WRD) conducts a variety of transactions, including processing water right applications and transfers and issuing water right certificates and limited licenses. The fees charged by WRD are set in statute and were last adjusted in 2009; those increases are scheduled to sunset this year. House Bill 2259 A removes the sunset on the 2009 fee levels and authorizes the Water Resources Commission to adopt rules to increase fees on an annual basis subject to specified limits.