

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Unger
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Edwards

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and as Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 15 – 11 – 0

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Frederick, Komp, Nathanson, Read, Tomei, Williamson

Nays: Freeman, Hanna, Huffman, Jenson, McLane, Richardson, Smith

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Johnson, Monroe, Steiner Hayward, Winters

Nays: Girod, Hansell, Thomsen, Whitsett

Exc:

Prepared By: Susie Jordan, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 14, 2013

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 78th 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

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces Section 10, allows Water Resources Commission to adopt rules to increase fees by the greatest of 3.25% per year or percent increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and amends Section 11 to allow the Commission to adopt rules after July 1, 2015 to increase fees by the greater of 2% per year or percent increase in the CPI.

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.