

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/9, 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Water Resources Department to report to Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, no later than January 31, 2021 regarding pilot program allowing specified irrigation districts and water control districts to temporarily transfer water use to another location within district. Extends duration of pilot program from June 30, 2016 to January 2, 2022.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: (Proposed -1 Amendment) Clarifies water being transferred under pilot project can only be used for irrigation. Requires Water Resources Department (Department) to publish notice of planned participation in weekly notice and allow at least 20 days for public comment when identifying another district to participate in pilot project. Requires Department to annually publish notice of districts intending to use pilot project prior to commencement of irrigation season.

BACKGROUND: In 2003 the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 820 which authorized a pilot project allowing certain irrigation districts to make annual place of use changes to water rights within their legal boundaries without making an application to the Water Resources Department (Department) for a temporary transfer.

Senate Bill 267 extends the duration of the pilot project to January 2, 2022 and requires the Department to report to the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly.