

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:** 3/16, 4/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Water Resources Department (WRD) approval of water management and conservation plan to allow diversion of undeveloped portion of permit under extension of time to complete construction or perfect water right for municipal use beyond 20 years for first extension of time issued after June 29, 2005 for permit issued before 1998. Defines undeveloped portion of permit.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: (Proposed -3 Amendment) Replaces measure. Defines undeveloped portion of permit. Requires Water Resources Department (WRD) approval of water management and conservation plan to allow diversion of undeveloped portion of permit under extension of time to complete construction or perfect water right for municipal use beyond 20 years. Defines undeveloped portion of permit.

BACKGROUND: A municipality must obtain a water right permit from Water Resources Department (WRD) before it can divert and use surface water or groundwater. Once the municipality receives a permit, it has 20 years to complete construction of the facilities necessary to divert and use the water for the authorized uses (known as “perfection” of the right). Once the municipality submits evidence showing the water has been used in compliance with permit conditions, WRD issues a water right certificate and the municipality then has a vested water right. Under current law, may grant an extension to a municipal use permit holder to allow more time to complete construction or to perfect its water right with certain conditions.