

HB 3051 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/14, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes use of Water Measurement Cost Share Program Revolving Fund moneys to contribute up to 75 percent of moneys needed to install, substantially repair or replace measurement device on authorized diversions or points of appropriation to protect existing water rights or measure ground water use.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current cost share program for installing measurement device only applies to surface water diversions
- Extension proposed to allow program to cover ground water users
- Offered as part of recommendations from Task Force on Drought Emergency Response

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 4113 (2016) established the Task Force on Drought Emergency Response to review and make recommendations on the tools and information needed to prepare for and respond to drought. The Task Force was asked to: evaluate existing drought response tools and make recommendations to improve drought response; identify options to minimize the impact of drought on agriculture, municipalities, fish and wildlife, and other interests; identify data and resources needed to anticipate and understand drought impacts; and recommend improvements to information sharing during drought. The report of the Task Force was due November 1, 2016 and the Task Force closed on December 31, 2016.

House Bill 3051 would address recommendations by the Task Force on Drought Emergency Response by allowing the use of moneys from the Water Measurement Cost Share Program Revolving Fund to help pay for installation, repair or replacement of a measuring device on an authorized diversion or point of appropriation, in an effort to protect existing water rights or measure ground water use.