

## **HB 2297 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources**

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**Prepared By:** Misty Freeman, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/9

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Task Force on Drought Emergency Response to submit report with recommendations for legislation to interim legislative committee on natural resources and provide copy for Water Resources Commission. Extends retroactively sunset on Task Force from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2018. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Replaces entire content of bill. Establishes grant program to pay qualifying costs for planning studies to mitigate actual or potential impacts of existing or future drought conditions. Allows local governments, Indian tribes, or persons are eligible to apply for up to \$500,000 in dollar-for-dollar grant funding from Water Conservation, Reuse, and Storage Investment Fund to develop voluntary water management or conservation plan for public water system serving population less than 10,000 or for irrigation or water control district; to develop regional plan to increase drought resiliency; or to develop plan to mitigate impacts of drought. Specifies priority for grants to be given to geographic regions especially susceptible to drought impacts.

-2 Replaces entire content of bill. 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.

##### **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 2297 would retroactively extend the sunset of the Task Force on Drought Emergency Response to December 31, 2018.