

HB 3051 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Dembrow

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date: 05/10/17

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Baertschiger Jr, Dembrow, Olsen, Prozanski, Roblan

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands permissible uses 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 points of appropriation to protect existing water rights or measure ground water use.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Cost share program currently only for surface water users
- Measure imposes no new requirements on water right holders

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 4113 (2016) established the Task Force on Drought Emergency Response (Task Force) 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.

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 point of appropriation to protect existing water rights or measure ground water use.