
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6467

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senate Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development (originally sponsored by Senators Honeyford, Bailey, Becker, Angel, and Pearson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring that existing exempt water uses in the
2 Skagit river basin are not subject to interruption; adding a new
3 section to chapter 90.44 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that hundreds of
6 homeowners and businesses in the Skagit river basin who lawfully
7 obtained building permits are subject to interruption of established
8 groundwater uses through the operation of the Skagit river basin
9 instream flow rule. An interruptible groundwater supply is not
10 feasible for domestic use, is hazardous to public health, and imposes
11 severe economic harm on citizens who justifiably relied on the water
12 availability determinations of both state and local governments. The
13 same water users could suffer substantial hardship due to the
14 enforcement of the Skagit river basin instream flow rule. It is
15 therefore just, equitable, and within the public's interest to preserve
16 from interruption those existing water uses.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 90.44 RCW
18 to read as follows:

1 Groundwater uses exempt from the permit requirement of RCW
2 90.44.050 and established between April 14, 2001, and October 3, 2013,
3 in the Skagit river basin, as delineated in chapter 173-503 WAC as it
4 existed on the effective date of this section, shall not be subject to
5 interruption from the instream flows established in the Skagit river
6 basin instream flow rule, chapter 173-503 WAC as it existed on the
7 effective date of this section.

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