

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0261

Diversion dam operation and turbidity measure.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Northrup and Senator(s) Coe  
and Hicks

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to water; authorizing public irrigation and  
2 power districts to release and eliminate the annual  
3 accumulation of suspended load behind diversion dams in  
4 excess of existing turbidity requirements; requiring the  
5 department of environmental quality to develop standards  
6 and time limits; providing for rulemaking; and providing  
7 for effective dates.

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9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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11 **Section 1.** W.S. 41-7-820 is created to read:

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13 **41-7-820. Powers; diversion dam operation.**

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1           (a) A district shall operate and maintain its works  
2 and systems, in particular diversion dams, to achieve  
3 turbidity measurement standards required by the department  
4 of environmental quality, except:

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6           (i) To manage the annual accumulation of  
7 suspended load behind a diversion dam, the department of  
8 environmental quality, at the request of a district, shall  
9 establish, through its water quality standards rule making  
10 process, alternative allowable turbidity and suspended  
11 solids standards;

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13           (ii) In developing the alternative allowable  
14 turbidity and suspended solids standards, the department of  
15 environmental quality shall also establish the appropriate  
16 time frame and duration that the alternative standards will  
17 be allowed;

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19           (iii) The alternative turbidity and suspended  
20 solids standards established under this section shall not  
21 result in irreparable harm and shall result in only minimal  
22 effect on water uses.

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1           **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon  
2 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
3 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
4 Constitution.

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(END)