

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS 12681

Ch 242
HB 671-1986

This legislation would expedite the licensing of water rights. Holders of existing permits would be required to pay a fee at the time proof of beneficial use is submitted to pay the state's cost in making the field examination upon which the license is based. A backlog of field examinations exists for permits upon which proof of beneficial use has been submitted representing a four-year delay in issuing licenses.

Section 1 amends existing statutes to require a fee for submittal of proof of beneficial use, to require a fee to be paid by permit holders who have submitted proof of beneficial use for which field examination has not been completed, and to describe the effect of failing to pay the fee.

Section 2 amends existing statutes to provide a fee schedule for filing proof of beneficial use.

Section 3 declares an emergency to allow expedited examinations to be made during the next irrigation season.

FISCAL NOTE

The state's general fund pays the Department of Water Resources' costs in completing the field examination under present statutes. This bill places a user's fee on the water right holder to pay the cost of the examination. The cost to the right holder would be \$50 for the smallest water diversions increasing depending upon diversion rate to a \$600 maximum fee for the largest water development projects. Single family domestic uses would be examined by the department without cost to the permit holder.