Comparison of Water Adjudication Fee Bills

HB 16 Keane

Fee:

- Eliminates fee (-$6.2 million).
- No refund.
- Collection of outstanding fees.

Fund Transfer:

- Transfers $25 million on July 15, 2007 from the general fund to the water adjudication account.

Benchmarks:

- Eliminates "Base budget" appropriation for accelerated adjudication if benchmarks are not met.

Adjudication:

- No change.

Effective Date: Effective July 1.\, 2007.

HB 130 Campbell

Fee:

- Refund fees for owners who paid $400 or less.
- Appropriates $4.6 million from general fund to pay for refund.
- Continues fee for owners who paid more than $400. This generates an estimated $1.04 million per year in fee collections each cycle.
- Establishes a method for fee refund.
- Appropriates $231,000 to DNRC and $269,000 to Revenue for administrative costs of refund.

Fund Transfer:

- Transfers $15.9 from general fund to water adjudication account on July 1, 2007.

Benchmarks:

- Eliminates "Base budget" appropriation for accelerated adjudication if benchmarks are not met.

Adjudication:

- No change.

Effective Date: Effective upon passage and approval.

HB 93 Barrett

Fee:

- Eliminates fee (-6.2 million).
- No refund.
- Collection of outstanding fees.

Fund Transfer:

- Transfers $25 million on July 15, 2007 from the general fund to the water adjudication account.

Benchmarks:

- Eliminates "Base budget" appropriation for accelerated adjudication if benchmarks are not met.
- Detailed basin completion report required.

Adjudication:

- Requires examination be complete in a basin before department examines another basin.

Effective Date: Effective July 1, 2007.

HB 151 Heinert

Fee:

- Eliminates fee.
- Provides tax credit for water adjudication fee for persons paying more than the fee in MT income taxes ($5.1 million).
- Provides for a refund of the fee for persons paying less than the fee in MT income taxes ($?? (would reduce $5.1 million)).
- Provides for reimbursement of water adjudication fee for local governments. This is estimated to cost $26,540.

Fund Transfer:

- Transfers $25 million on July 1, 2007 from the general fund to the water adjudication account.

Benchmarks:

- Eliminates "Base budget" appropriation for accelerated adjudication if benchmarks are not met.

Adjudication:

- No change.

Effective Date: Effective upon passage and approval.

1/10/2007

DNRC
Mary Sexton 444-2074

EXHIBIT
DATE 1-10-07
HB 16, 130, 151, 93