

Bill No.: SF0084 **Effective:** **Immediately**

LSO No.: 26LSO-0037

Enrolled Act No.: SEA No. 0062

Chapter No.: 100

Prime Sponsor: Select Water Committee

Catch Title: **Voluntary water conservation program.**

Has Report: Yes

Subject: Voluntary water conservation program.

Summary/Major Elements:

- Establishes the "Voluntary Water Conservation Program Act" administered by the State Engineer to manage water use in Wyoming's portion of the Colorado River basin.
- Defines key terms related to the program, including "conservation project," "consumptive use," and "curtailment."
- Outlines an application and approval process for conservation projects, including public notice and comment periods.
- Specifies criteria for project approval, including reduction of consumptive use and compliance with Wyoming's interstate compact obligations.
- Prohibits the approval of projects that harm other water rights or promote interstate water marketing.
- Authorizes the storage of conserved water in specified reservoirs and provides for the investigation of additional storage options.
- Appropriates funds to support program implementation and staffing.
- Requires the state engineer to publish notices and hold public meetings to inform stakeholders about the program.
- Ensures that no water rights are lost or impaired due to participation in the program.

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- Sets a sunset date of July 1, 2032 for the authorization of new conservation projects under the program.

Comments:

- Requires the State Engineer to report to the Select Water Committee and the Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Interim Committee on October 1 of each year until 2031, detailing the operation of the program.

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