

1 SENATE BILL NO. 336

2 INTRODUCED BY B. HAMLETT

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING THE DEFINITION OF THE TERM "DEVELOPED
5 SPRING"; AND AMENDING SECTION 85-2-102, MCA."

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7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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9 **Section 1.** Section 85-2-102, MCA, is amended to read:10 **"85-2-102. Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions
11 apply:

12 (1) "Appropriate" means:

13 (a) to divert, impound, or withdraw, including by stock for stock water, a quantity of water for a beneficial
14 use;

15 (b) in the case of a public agency, to reserve water in accordance with 85-2-316;

16 (c) in the case of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks, to change an appropriation right to instream
17 flow to protect, maintain, or enhance streamflows to benefit the fishery resource in accordance with 85-2-436;

18 (d) in the case of the United States department of agriculture, forest service:

19 (i) instream flows and in situ use of water created in 85-20-1401, Article V; or

20 (ii) to change an appropriation right to divert or withdraw water under subsection (1)(a) to instream flow
21 to protect, maintain, or enhance streamflows in accordance with 85-2-320;22 (e) temporary changes or leases for instream flow to maintain or enhance instream flow to benefit the
23 fishery resource in accordance with 85-2-408;

24 (f) a use of water for aquifer recharge or mitigation; or

25 (g) a use of water for an aquifer storage and recovery project as provided in 85-2-368.

26 (2) "Aquifer recharge" means either the controlled subsurface addition of water directly to the aquifer or
27 controlled application of water to the ground surface for the purpose of replenishing the aquifer to offset adverse
28 effects resulting from net depletion of surface water.29 (3) "Aquifer storage and recovery project" means a project involving the use of an aquifer to temporarily
30 store water through various means, including but not limited to injection, surface spreading and infiltration, drain

1 fields, or another department-approved method. The stored water may be either pumped from the injection well
2 or other wells for beneficial use or allowed to naturally drain away for a beneficial use.

3 (4) "Beneficial use", unless otherwise provided, means:

4 (a) a use of water for the benefit of the appropriator, other persons, or the public, including but not limited
5 to agricultural, stock water, domestic, fish and wildlife, industrial, irrigation, mining, municipal, power, and
6 recreational uses;

7 (b) a use of water appropriated by the department for the state water leasing program under 85-2-141
8 and of water leased under a valid lease issued by the department under 85-2-141;

9 (c) a use of water by the department of fish, wildlife, and parks through a change in an appropriation right
10 for instream flow to protect, maintain, or enhance streamflows to benefit the fishery resource authorized under
11 85-2-436;

12 (d) a use of water through a temporary change in appropriation right or lease to enhance instream flow
13 to benefit the fishery resource in accordance with 85-2-408;

14 (e) a use of water for aquifer recharge or mitigation; or

15 (f) a use of water for an aquifer storage and recovery project as provided in 85-2-368.

16 (5) "Certificate" means a certificate of water right issued by the department.

17 (6) "Change in appropriation right" means a change in the place of diversion, the place of use, the
18 purpose of use, or the place of storage.

19 (7) "Commission" means the fish, wildlife, and parks commission provided for in 2-15-3402.

20 (8) "Correct and complete" means that the information required to be submitted conforms to the standard
21 of substantial credible information and that all of the necessary parts of the form requiring the information have
22 been filled in with the required information for the department to begin evaluating the information.

23 (9) "Declaration" means the declaration of an existing right filed with the department under section 8,
24 Chapter 452, Laws of 1973.

25 (10) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation provided for in Title 2,
26 chapter 15, part 33.

27 (11) "Developed spring" means any artificial opening or excavation in the ground, ~~however made,~~ at a
28 point where water emerges naturally, including any physical alteration at the point of discharge regardless of
29 whether it results in any increase in the yield of ground water, from which ground water is sought or can be
30 obtained or through which it flows under natural pressures or is artificially withdrawn.

1 (12) "Existing right" or "existing water right" means a right to the use of water that would be protected
2 under the law as it existed prior to July 1, 1973. The term includes federal non-Indian and Indian reserved water
3 rights created under federal law and water rights created under state law.

4 (13) "Ground water" means any water that is beneath the ground surface.

5 (14) "Late claim" means a claim to an existing right forfeited pursuant to the conclusive presumption of
6 abandonment under 85-2-226.

7 (15) "Mitigation" means the reallocation of surface water or ground water through a change in
8 appropriation right or other means that does not result in surface water being introduced into an aquifer through
9 aquifer recharge to offset adverse effects resulting from net depletion of surface water.

10 (16) "Municipality" means an incorporated city or town organized and incorporated under Title 7, chapter
11 2.

12 (17) "Permit" means the permit to appropriate issued by the department under 85-2-301 through 85-2-303
13 and 85-2-306 through 85-2-314.

14 (18) "Person" means an individual, association, partnership, corporation, state agency, political
15 subdivision, the United States or any agency of the United States, or any other entity.

16 (19) (a) "Political subdivision" means any county, incorporated city or town, public corporation, or district
17 created pursuant to state law or other public body of the state empowered to appropriate water.

18 (b) The term does not mean a private corporation, association, or group.

19 (20) "Salvage" means to make water available for beneficial use from an existing valid appropriation
20 through application of water-saving methods.

21 (21) "State water reservation" means a water right created under state law after July 1, 1973, that
22 reserves water for existing or future beneficial uses or that maintains a minimum flow, level, or quality of water
23 throughout the year or at periods or for defined lengths of time.

24 (22) "Substantial credible information" means probable, believable facts sufficient to support a reasonable
25 legal theory upon which the department should proceed with the action requested by the person providing the
26 information.

27 (23) "Waste" means the unreasonable loss of water through the design or negligent operation of an
28 appropriation or water distribution facility or the application of water to anything but a beneficial use.

29 (24) "Water" means all water of the state, surface and subsurface, regardless of its character or manner
30 of occurrence, including but not limited to geothermal water, diffuse surface water, and sewage effluent.

