

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1001. FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
House of Representatives Interim Task Force on Washington Waters (91000002)

(1) The house of representatives finds that low water supply in portions of eastern Washington, catastrophic flood damage, and storm water runoff polluting state waterways have reached crisis levels, endangering the health and safety of our citizens and the environment.

(2) The house of representatives interim task force on Washington waters is established to build upon the foundation of Senate Bill No. 5628 that was introduced in the 2015 regular session and provided for storm water, flood control, and water supply infrastructure in the state. The objective of the task force is to prepare a report and draft legislation for consideration in the 2016 legislative session that:

(a) Quantifies the level of funding needed through fiscal year 2026 to address the three water priorities;

(b) Develops and recommends state funding options that address the three water priorities equally;

(c) Develops and recommends local funding options that generate revenues from municipal and agricultural beneficiaries;

(d) Develops and recommends criteria and mechanisms for managing, prioritizing and distributing the funding;

(e) Analyzes and reports on the metrics and variables associated with water market pricing, including the costs per acre-foot of water supply developed and delivered for irrigation; and

(f) Addresses other relevant issues as determined by the task force.

(3) The house of representatives interim task force on Washington waters must consist of ten members:

(a) Five members from the majority caucus appointed by the speaker of the house, including the chair of the capital budget committee; one member each from the appropriations, finance, and transportation committees; and one member at large; and

(b) Five members from the minority caucus appointed by the minority leader, including the ranking minority member of the capital budget committee; one member each from the appropriations, finance, and transportation committees; and one member at large.

(c) The chair and the ranking minority member of the capital budget committee shall cochair the task force.

(d) Appointments to the task force must be completed within fifteen days of the effective date of this section.

(4) Principal staff support for the task force must be provided by the house of representatives office of program research. The task force may:

(a) Request the participation of the office of financial management and other relevant executive branch agencies;

(b) Enter into contracts with persons who have specific technical expertise; and

(c) Solicit information and perspectives from representatives of public and private organizations.

(5) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Task force expenditures are subject to approval by the house of representatives executive rules committee, or its successor committee.

(6) The task force must report its findings and recommendations to appropriate legislative committees by November 15, 2015.

(7) The task force expires on June 30, 2016.

(8) The appropriation in this section is provided solely for any technical research and analysis required to carry out the task force objectives in subsection (2) of this section.

Appropriation:

State Building Construction Account—State.....	\$75,000
Prior Biennia (Expenditures).....	\$0
Future Biennia (Projected Costs)	\$0
TOTAL	\$75,000