

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Adam Sussman, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item D, April 18, 2003  
Water Resources Commission Meeting

### **Update of Legislative Activity**

Attached for your information is a list and description of the water-related bills the Department is currently tracking and that are “moving.”

Also attached is some information on the Department’s fee adjustment bill (HB 2268) that was provided to the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

Finally, since the Commission meeting in February 2003, the Department has worked with stakeholders to make a number of modifications to HB 2268. Highlights of the modifications are as follows:

- The proposed fees have been adjusted to reflect a shorter fee revenue planning horizon.
- The bill has been amended to establish a “fee work group” and a requirement to report to the Seventy-Third Legislative Assembly on implementation of the fee increases, regulatory streamlining, and cost containment activities.
- Disincentives to filing permit applications for small ponds, applying for instream leases and applying for the allocation of conserved water have been addressed by adjusting the fees and allowing for the waiver of fees for certain allocations of conserved water.
- The bill has been amended to establish a dedicated “Water Right Operating Fund” to ensure increased fees are being dedicated to the services requested.