

**FORMATTING NOTE:**

In initiatives, legislative bills and other proposed measures, language that is to be deleted from current statutes is represented by a "strikethrough" character and language that is to be added is underlined. Because these special characters cannot be formatted in all Internet browsers, a different set of symbols is used for presenting these proposals on-line. The symbols are as follows:

- Text that is surrounded by (({- text here -})) is text that will be DELETED FROM the existing statute if the proposed measure is approved.
- Text that is surrounded by {+ text here +} is text that will be ADDED TO the existing statute if the proposed measure is approved.
- {+ NEW SECTION+} (found at the beginning of a section or paragraph) indicates that ALL of the text in that section will become law if the proposed measure is approved.

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**INITIATIVE 232**

AN ACT Relating to water; and adding a new chapter to Title 90 RCW.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 1. The people of the state of Washington declare that:

(1) Water is a fundamental requirement for life, and the basic right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" is therefore dependent on the right to water;

(2) The right to access water for basic needs is currently not guaranteed within state statutes;

(3) The denial of access to water within the state occurs regularly through both actions of the state and inactions of the state; and

(4) The threat of denial of access to water constitutes a leverage of government that threatens the fundamental freedoms of each citizen.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 2. (1) Each citizen of the state of Washington is entitled to the basic amount of water needed for that citizen to exist within the society of this state. This amount constitutes the quantity or amount required under statute, or by rules adopted by the department of health, that is necessary to consider a domicile to be adequately served. Each citizen holds a right that can be exercised individually or cumulatively to ensure them the right to sufficient water with which to live.

(2) The water right of the individual citizens shall be allowed to be considered cumulatively to form the necessary rights for a water system to provide water service to any group of citizens that so choose, as their preferred method, to acquire water to the property upon which they live. If the property is served by a water system, regardless of size, the water rights of the citizens served must be assigned to the purveyor. The accumulated water rights shall serve as a single water right through which that system is authorized to serve its customers. In those situations where allocated water rights are currently held by the water purveyor, the assigned rights of the individuals served will be subtracted from the existing water right certificate held by that purveyor to that point where the water right certificate is fully exercised. Any individual rights accumulated to that purveyor beyond certificated water rights shall expand that right to provide service to those people whose individual rights have been

acquired. Purveyors shall be allowed to plan for and build infrastructure for water systems needed to reasonably serve the projected growth twenty years into the future.

(3) Where the individual water rights are exercised for a single domestic system, the water right can be exercised as a ground water source in any way practicable. This right to a basic quantity of water does not diminish existing rights to access water, except that the amount of water acquired through the basic human right should be considered as part of any other existing right.

(4) The right of each citizen to access sufficient water to ensure his or her functional survival in the society of the state shall not be abridged by any prioritization or allocation process that currently exists, or shall be in the future proposed, without the approval of two-thirds of the voters voting in a general election.

(5) Nothing in this section is intended to restrict a local government's ability or authority to appropriately manage land use within its jurisdiction.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 3. Sections 1 and 2 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 90 RCW.

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