

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 4, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1242

Introduced by Assembly Member Ruskin

February 27, 2009

An act to add Section 106.3 to the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1242, as amended, Ruskin. State water policy.

Existing law establishes various state water policies, including the policy that the use of water for domestic purposes is the highest use of water.

This bill would declare that it is the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to clean, *affordable*, and accessible water on an equitable basis, that is adequate for the health and well-being of the individual and family, ~~and that no one shall be deprived of that access or quality of water due to individual economic circumstances.~~ The bill would require relevant state agencies, including the Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, and State Department of Public Health, to employ all ~~feasible~~ *reasonable* means to implement this state policy. Those state agencies would be required to revise, adopt, or establish policies, regulations, and grant criteria to further this state policy.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 106.3 is added to the Water Code, to
2 read:

3 106.3. (a) It is hereby declared to be the established policy of
4 the state that every human being has the right to clean, *affordable*,
5 and accessible water on an equitable basis, that is adequate for the
6 health and well-being of the individual and family, ~~and that no one~~
7 ~~shall be deprived of that access or quality of water due to individual~~
8 ~~economic circumstances.~~

9 (b) Relevant state agencies, including the department, the state
10 board, and the State Department of Public Health, shall employ
11 all ~~feasible~~ *reasonable* means to implement this state policy. Those
12 state agencies shall revise, adopt, or establish policies, regulations,
13 and grant criteria to further this state policy. *The state agencies,*
14 *in determining affordability, shall be consistent with affordability*
15 *criteria adopted by the United States Environmental Protection*
16 *Agency.*

17 (c) This section shall apply to water supplies for individuals
18 and not for new development.

19 (d) The implementation of this section shall not infringe on the
20 rights or responsibilities of any ~~local or regional water agency or~~
21 ~~municipality~~ *publicly regulated water system.*