

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 685**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Eng**

February 17, 2011

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 685, as introduced, Eng. 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 for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes, that is adequate for the health and well-being of the individual and family. The bill would require all relevant state agencies, including the Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, and State Department of Public Health, to employ all 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, to the extent that those actions do not affect eligibility for federal funds.

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:

- 1     106.3. (a) It is hereby declared to be the established policy of  
2 the state that every human being has the right to clean, affordable,  
3 and accessible water for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary  
4 purposes, that is adequate for the health and well-being of the  
5 individual and family.
- 6     (b) All relevant state agencies, including the department, the  
7 state board, and the State Department of Public Health, shall  
8 employ all reasonable means to implement this state policy. Those  
9 state agencies shall revise, adopt, or establish policies, regulations,  
10 and grant criteria to further this state policy, including establishing  
11 affordability criteria as appropriate, to the extent that those actions  
12 do not affect eligibility for federal funds.
- 13     (c) This section does not expand any obligation of the state to  
14 provide water or to require the expenditure of additional resources  
15 to develop water infrastructure beyond the obligations that may  
16 exist pursuant to subdivision (b).
- 17     (d) This section shall apply to water supplies for individuals  
18 and not for new development.
- 19     (e) The implementation of this section shall not infringe on the  
20 rights or responsibilities of any public water system.