

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1021

BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1  
2 RELATING TO PRIEST LAKE; AMENDING SECTION 70-507, IDAHO CODE, TO PROHIBIT  
3 CERTAIN OUTLET CONTROL STRUCTURES AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS;  
4 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

5 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

6 SECTION 1. That Section 70-507, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 70-507. IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD TO HAVE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL --  
9 ADDITIONAL RELEASE STRUCTURES PROHIBITED. The Priest Lake outlet control  
10 structure shall, when constructed, be under the sole and exclusive super-  
11 vision and control of the Idaho water resource board, which may enter into  
12 contracts for a period of one (1) year or more with persons or corporations  
13 deemed qualified by the board to operate and maintain said outlet control  
14 structure or any other control structure erected as a replacement thereof;  
15 provided however, that under no circumstances shall the water surface level  
16 of Priest Lake be maintained or regulated by said board above 3.5 feet on the  
17 present United States Geological Survey Priest Lake outlet gage with gage  
18 datum of 2,434.64 feet above mean sea level, datum of 1929, supplementary ad-  
19 justment of 1947, or released below 0.1 feet on said gage; provided further,  
20 that the water surface level of Priest Lake shall be maintained at 3.0 feet  
21 during the recreation season when the water supply to Priest Lake is plenti-  
22 ful, meaning normal to wet years, and between 3.0 feet and 3.5 feet during the  
23 recreation season when the water supply to Priest Lake is lacking, meaning  
24 dry and marginally dry years, on the United States Geological Survey Priest  
25 Lake outlet gage, from and after the time each year following the runoff of  
26 accumulated winter snows, when the surface level of the waters of Priest Lake  
27 has receded to such elevation, until the time after the close of the main  
28 recreational season, as determined by said board, that said lake waters may  
29 be released and the surface level permitted to recede below said elevation of  
30 3.0 feet. The outlet control structure authorized under this section shall  
31 be the only structure authorized to release water from the lake. No siphon,  
32 gravity bypass, or other bypass device may be constructed to divert or other-  
33 wise direct water from Priest Lake to Priest River without prior approval by  
34 the Idaho state legislature and the governor.

35 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
36 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after  
37 July 1, 2023.