
HOUSE BILL 1457

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Haugen, Wilson and Zellinsky.

Read first time January 30, 1991. Referred to Committee on Environmental Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to on-site sewage additives; amending RCW
2 70.118.020; adding a new section to chapter 70.118 RCW; creating a new
3 section; and prescribing penalties.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that additives do
6 not have a positive effect on the operation of on-site systems. The
7 legislature further finds that additives can contaminate ground water
8 aquifers, render septic drainfields dysfunctional, and result in costly
9 repairs to homeowners. It is therefore the intent of the legislature
10 to ban the use, sale, and distribution of additives within the state.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.118.020 and 1977 ex.s. c 133 s 2 are each amended
12 to read as follows:

1 As used in this chapter, the terms defined in this section shall
2 have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly indicates
3 otherwise.

4 (1) "Nonwater-carried sewage disposal devices" means any device
5 that stores and treats nonwater-carried human urine and feces.

6 (2) "Alternative methods of effluent disposal" means systems
7 approved by the department of social and health services, including at
8 least, mound systems, alternating drain fields, anaerobic filters,
9 evapotranspiration systems, and aerobic systems.

10 (3) "Failure" means: (a) Effluent has been discharged on the
11 surface of the ground prior to approved treatment; or (b) effluent has
12 percolated to the surface of the ground; or (c) effluent has
13 contaminated or threatens to contaminate a ground water supply.

14 (4) "Additive" means any product added to an on-site sewage
15 disposal system for the purpose of reducing the frequency of removal of
16 septage from an on-site system.

17 (5) "Department" means the department of health.

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 70.118 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 (1) After July 1, 1991, a person may not use, sell, or distribute
21 an additive to on-site sewage disposal systems.

22 (2) A person in violation of this section is guilty of a civil
23 penalty not to exceed fifty dollars per offense. Each unit of additive
24 used or sold in violation of this section is considered a separate
25 offense. The department and local departments of health shall issue a
26 warning to consumers and retailers in violation of this section prior
27 to issuing a civil penalty.

28 (3) The department is responsible for notifying major distributors
29 and wholesalers of additives, of the state-wide prohibition on

1 additives.