
SENATE BILL 5820

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1993 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Deccio, Skratek and M. Rasmussen

Read first time 02/16/93. Referred to Committee on Energy & Utilities.

1 AN ACT Relating to the water resources policy commission; creating
2 new sections; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. The legislature finds
5 that there is a need to comprehensively review the policies and
6 institutional framework governing the management, protection, and
7 allocation of water resources in the state of Washington. A
8 comprehensive review of all water resource management programs should
9 be undertaken as soon as possible because of the proliferation of water
10 resource programs and planning requirements at all levels of
11 government. This has caused inconsistent and conflicting management
12 strategies, as well as delays in making vital decisions due to
13 uncertainty. These policy conflicts are occurring against the backdrop
14 of everincreasing demands for water resources.

15 It is therefore the purpose of this act to create a water resources
16 policy commission to comprehensively review the water resource
17 management programs in the state and to make recommendations for
18 improvement and implementation of management decisions. These
19 recommendations should be considered by all citizens having an interest

1 in water resources and should provide the foundation for fundamental
2 water resource management reform.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** COMMISSION CREATED. (1) There is created
4 the Washington water resources policy commission. The commission shall
5 be comprised of eleven members as follows:

6 (a) The governor or the governor's representative;

7 (b) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the
8 speaker of the house of representatives, with one member from each
9 major caucus;

10 (c) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the
11 senate, with one member from each major caucus;

12 (d) Six members, appointed by the governor, to represent the
13 following interests:

14 (i) Native American tribes;

15 (ii) Agriculture;

16 (iii) Local government;

17 (iv) Environmental organizations;

18 (v) Business; and

19 (vi) Fisheries and wildlife.

20 (2) The commission shall convene at the call of the governor under
21 section 4 of this act, and shall at that time elect a chair.

22 (3) The governor shall provide for the staff of the commission.
23 Whenever practicable existing employees of state government should be
24 detailed on a temporary basis to assist in staffing the commission.
25 The governor, the commissioner of public lands, and the attorney
26 general shall cooperate in assuring the assignment of staff having
27 expertise in the matters under review by the commission.

28 (4) Per diem compensation shall be provided to the members
29 appointed under subsection (1)(d) of this section pursuant to RCW
30 43.03.240.

31 (5) The governor shall make the appointments required under
32 subsection (1)(d) of this section no later than ninety days following
33 the effective date of this act.

34 (6) Except as specifically provided in this act, the commission
35 shall determine the procedures for conducting the commission's
36 activities. In any report or recommendations to the governor and
37 legislature, the commission shall allow the inclusion of minority
38 positions.

1 (7) The commission may enter into contracts for the performance of
2 work necessary to assist the commission in its duties under this act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** COMMISSION DUTIES. The commission shall
4 conduct a comprehensive review of water resources management in
5 Washington that includes:

6 (1) An identification of all programs governing flood and storm
7 water management, water supply delivery, water quality protection,
8 instream and riparian habitat protection, and other water resource
9 management needs;

10 (2) An assessment of the performance of existing programs in
11 achieving coordinated water resource management, that identifies
12 specific conflicting or inconsistent strategies, standards,
13 jurisdiction, or planning requirements;

14 (3) Recommendations for the coordination and integration of state
15 water resource programs, including the need for an independent water
16 resources agency;

17 (4) Recommendations for comprehensive statutory policies on water
18 allocation procedures and priorities, including revisions of the
19 state's surface and ground water codes;

20 (5) Recommendations to achieve water resource management on a
21 watershed basis;

22 (6) Recommendations for changes to water resource planning programs
23 to achieve a comprehensive regional planning framework whose boundaries
24 recognize hydrological boundaries;

25 (7) Recommendations for the coordination and integration of state
26 water resource programs, including the need for an independent water
27 resources agency;

28 (8) Recommendations for the consolidation of state water resources
29 and water quality funding programs;

30 (9) Recommendations for integrating permit programs for the
31 withdrawal of water and the discharge of pollutants to state waters;

32 (10) Recommendations for the creation of market-based systems for
33 water allocation, including but not limited to transfers, consumption-
34 based rate structures, incentives for conservation of irrigation water,
35 and water marketing;

36 (11) Assessment of the impact of hydrologic continuity on the
37 management of programs governing surface and ground waters, and
38 recommendations for improved management regimes;

1 (12) Recommendations for state and local government coordination of
2 water quality and resource planning consistent with the programs and
3 objectives of the growth management act.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** COMMISSION MEETINGS. Within one hundred
5 twenty days following the effective date of this act, the governor
6 shall schedule the initial meeting of the commission. The commission
7 shall determine the location and frequency of its meetings, but shall
8 meet at least quarterly. Commission meetings shall be open to the
9 public, and written notice of scheduled commission meetings shall be
10 provided to persons requesting such notice. The commission shall
11 accept and consider written comments on the subjects included in its
12 work plan, and shall endeavor to provide opportunities for public
13 comment within its meeting schedule.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** COMMISSION WORK PLAN. The commission shall
15 develop a work plan that sets priorities for review of the subjects
16 described in section 3 of this act and such additional subjects that
17 the commission identifies for review. The work plan shall schedule the
18 subjects for review over the period of the commission's authorized
19 life, and identify its goals for providing a report to the legislature
20 on each subject. The work plan shall describe the tasks proposed for
21 each review item and estimated funding needs. The work plan shall be
22 submitted to the fiscal committees of the legislature and to the office
23 of financial management no later than December 1, 1993.

24 Notwithstanding the work plan schedule, the commission shall report
25 to the legislature on those subjects required by section 3(1), (2),
26 (3), and (4) of this act no later than November 1, 1994.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** REPORTS. The commission shall periodically
28 report to the governor and the legislature as it accomplishes its
29 review of the subjects identified in its work plan. The reports shall
30 describe current conditions and program effectiveness, and shall
31 include recommendations for legislative and administrative action to
32 meet the legislative purpose set forth in section 1 of this act.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** RELATIONSHIP TO THE WATER RESOURCES FORUM.
34 Nothing in this act or the actions of the Washington water resources

1 policy commission shall be construed to affect or supersede the
2 activities of the water resources forum.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
5 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
6 effect immediately.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Captions as used in this act constitute no
8 part of the law.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 9 of this act and the
10 Washington water resources policy commission shall expire December 31,
11 1996.

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