

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5544

As Passed Senate, March 14, 1995

Title: An act relating to ocean resources.

Brief Description: Concerning the leasing of state shoreline for the exploration of oil or gas.

Sponsors: Senators Owen, Rinehart, Spanel, Haugen, C. Anderson and Fraser.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources: 2/7/95, 2/17/95 [DP, DNP].
Passed Senate, 3/14/95, 48-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Drew, Chair; Spanel, Vice Chair; Haugen, Morton, Oke, Owen and Snyder.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senators A. Anderson, Strannigan and Swecker.

Staff: Vic Moon (786-7469)

Background: In 1989, the Legislature established a policy that there would be no leasing of Washington's tidal or submerged lands extending from the mean high tide seaward through the state-owned lands three miles out to sea along the entire coast of Washington. That prohibition and policy will expire July 1, 1995.

Summary of Bill: The July 1, 1995, date is removed from the policy statement so that the moratorium concerning leasing of Washington's tidal or submerged lands will be permanent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: The state does not need oil exploration and drilling in state waters. Potential environmental damage to coastal waters could occur if the state allowed exploration and drilling.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: PRO: Fred Fellerman, Environmental Council; Naki Stevens, People for Puget Sound; Andy Palmer, American Oceans Campaign; David Ortman, Friends of the Earth; Carol Bason, Sierra Club.

House Amendment(s): The moratorium on leasing of state tidal and submerged lands is extended to the year 2000.