
HOUSE BILL 2823

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Blake and Kretz

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Willapa harbor oyster reserve; amending RCW
2 70.118.140 and 77.60.160; adding a new section to chapter 77.60 RCW;
3 and recodifying RCW 70.118.140.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.118.140 and 2007 c 341 s 43 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1)(a) The department (~~of health~~) shall transfer the funds
8 required by RCW 77.60.160 to the appropriate local governments.
9 Pacific and Grays Harbor counties and Puget Sound shall manage (~~the~~)
10 their established shellfish--on-site sewage grant program (~~in Puget~~
11 ~~Sound and for Pacific and Grays Harbor counties~~). The (~~department of~~
12 ~~health~~) local governments, in consultation with the department of
13 health, shall (~~provide~~) use the provided funds (~~to local health~~
14 ~~jurisdictions to be used~~) as grants or loans to individuals for
15 repairing or improving their on-site sewage systems. The grants or
16 loans may be provided only in areas that have the potential to
17 adversely affect water quality in commercial and recreational shellfish
18 growing areas.

1 (b) A recipient of a grant or loan shall enter into an agreement
2 with the appropriate local health jurisdiction to maintain the improved
3 on-site sewage system according to specifications required by the local
4 health jurisdiction.

5 (c) The department (~~(of health)~~) shall work closely with local
6 (~~(health jurisdictions)~~) governments and it shall be the goal of the
7 department (~~(of health)~~) to attain geographic equity between Grays
8 Harbor, Willapa Bay, and Puget Sound when making funds available under
9 this program.

10 (d) For the purposes of this subsection, "geographic equity" means
11 issuing on-site sewage grants or loans at a level that matches the
12 funds generated from the oyster reserve lands in that area.

13 (2) In Puget Sound, the (~~(department of health)~~) local governments
14 shall give first priority to areas that are:

15 (a) Identified as "areas of special concern" under WAC 246-272-
16 01001;

17 (b) Included within a shellfish protection district under chapter
18 90.72 RCW; or

19 (c) Identified as a marine recovery area under chapter 70.118A RCW.

20 (3) In Grays Harbor and Pacific counties, the (~~(department of~~
21 ~~health)~~) local governments shall give first priority to preventing the
22 deterioration of water quality in areas where commercial or
23 recreational shellfish are grown.

24 (4) The department (~~(of health)~~) and each participating local
25 (~~(health jurisdiction)~~) government shall enter into a memorandum of
26 understanding that will establish an applicant income eligibility
27 requirement for individual grant applicants from within the
28 jurisdiction and other mutually agreeable terms and conditions of the
29 grant program.

30 (~~(5) ((The department of health may recover the costs to administer~~
31 ~~this program not to exceed ten percent of the shellfish on-site sewage~~
32 ~~grant program.~~

33 ~~(6))~~) For the 2007-2009 biennium, from the funds received under
34 this section, Pacific county (~~(may)~~) shall transfer up to two hundred
35 thousand dollars to the department (~~(of fish and wildlife for research~~
36 ~~identified by the department of fish and wildlife)~~). Upon receiving
37 the funds from Pacific county, the department and the appropriate

1 oyster reserve advisory committee under RCW 77.60.160 shall identify
2 and execute specific research projects with those funds.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.60.160 and 2007 c 341 s 44 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) The oyster reserve land account is created in the state
6 treasury. All receipts from revenues from the lease of land or sale of
7 shellfish from oyster reserve lands must be deposited into the account.
8 Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.
9 Expenditures from the account may be used only as provided in this
10 section.

11 (2) Funds in the account shall be used for the purposes provided
12 for in this subsection:

13 (a) Up to forty percent for:

14 (i) The management expenses incurred by the department that are
15 directly attributable to the management of the oyster reserve lands;
16 and ((for))

17 (ii) The expenses associated with new research and development
18 activities at the Pt. Whitney and Nahcotta shellfish laboratories
19 managed by the department. As used in this subsection, "new research
20 and development activities" includes an emphasis on the control of
21 aquatic nuisance species and burrowing shrimp. New research and
22 development activities must be identified by the department and the
23 appropriate oyster reserve advisory committee;

24 (b) Up to ten percent may be deposited into the state general fund;
25 and

26 (c) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, all
27 remaining funds in the account shall be used for the shellfish - on-
28 site sewage grant program established in RCW 70.118.140 (as recodified
29 by this act).

30 (3)(a) No later than January 1st of each year, ~~((from revenues~~
31 ~~received from the Willapa bay oyster reserve, the department shall~~
32 ~~transfer one hundred thousand dollars to the on-site sewage grant~~
33 ~~program established in RCW 70.118.140)) the department shall transfer
34 up to fifty percent of the annual revenues generated in the preceding
35 year from the Willapa harbor oyster reserve to the on-site sewage grant
36 program established under RCW 70.118.140 (as recodified by this act) as
37 necessary to achieve a fund balance of one hundred thousand dollars.~~

1 (b) All remaining revenues received from the Willapa (~~bay~~) harbor
2 oyster reserve shall be used to fund research activities as specified
3 in subsection (2)(a) of this section.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.118.140 is recodified as a section in
5 chapter 77.60 RCW.

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