
SENATE BILL 6347

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senators Ranker, Swecker, Haugen, Rockefeller, Pridemore, Marr, Hobbs, Fraser, and Kline

Read first time 01/12/10. Referred to Committee on Environment, Water & Energy.

1 AN ACT Relating to seawater desalination; and creating a new
2 section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The Puget Sound partnership shall establish
5 a work group to study seawater desalination. The purpose of the study
6 is to identify the impacts of desalination facilities and to determine
7 the feasibility of seawater desalination as a solution to water supply
8 issues.

9 (1) The Puget Sound partnership shall convene and chair a work
10 group that includes representatives from the department of health,
11 department of natural resources, department of fish and wildlife, and
12 department of ecology.

13 (2) In conducting the study, the work group shall consider, at a
14 minimum, the following issues:

15 (a) The environmental impacts of seawater desalination facilities,
16 including noise, air, and water pollution;

17 (b) Impacts to nearshore habitat;

18 (c) Disposal of waste and by-products;

- 1 (d) Energy use and efficiency and the energy requirements needed to
2 operate a desalination facility;
- 3 (e) An analysis of management and operational requirements to
4 ensure financial and long-term viability, including fiscal impacts to
5 entities relying on a desalination plant for their primary potable
6 water;
- 7 (f) Public health and safety issues, including residential
8 requirements for water, possible health impacts, and risks;
- 9 (g) The impacts of enhancing or limiting potable water availability
10 for established communities and for new subdivisions or short plats;
11 and
- 12 (h) Laws and regulations of other states regarding desalination,
13 impact assessments, and energy usage costs.
- 14 (3) By December 1, 2010, the Puget Sound partnership shall report
15 to the legislature the results of the study and make recommendations to
16 the legislature as to:
- 17 (a) The need for a regulatory system or permit process for siting
18 and administering seawater desalination facilities;
- 19 (b) Appropriate guidelines for siting, sizing, and operating
20 seawater desalination facilities;
- 21 (c) Methods for determining the feasibility of a seawater
22 desalination facility and ensuring the long-term viability of a
23 facility that may serve entities with limited access to potable water;
24 and
- 25 (d) Alternatives to seawater desalination.

--- END ---