

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESHB 1028

PARTIAL VETO

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Brief Description: Making major changes to air quality laws.

By House Committee on Environmental Affairs
(originally sponsored by Representatives Pruitt, Horn, Rust, Heavey, Anderson, Wineberry, Phillips, Wang, Sprenkle, Jones, Prentice, Fraser, Nelson, G. Fisher, Jacobsen, R. Fisher, Valle, Roland, Hine and Brekke; by request of Governor Gardner).

House Committee on Environmental Affairs
House Committee on Revenue
Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background: This past year, Congress passed the first major revisions to the Federal Clean Air Act in two decades. The 1990 federal act is very prescriptive for geographic areas that do not meet federal air quality standards. These areas are required to implement various control strategies by specified dates or face automatic sanctions. Depending on the pollutant, these sanctions include: additional emission control programs, possible curtailment of new construction, and pollution reduction requirements on existing industries.

The federal act requires states to have operating permits for certain industrial pollution sources, including all sources emitting 100 or more tons of regulated pollutants per year. Washington is one of the few states in the country that does not require major sources of air pollution to have an operating permit. Under the act, a permitted source will be reviewed a minimum of every five years. At such time, the industrial source may be required to further reduce emissions, depending on the severity of local air quality and the availability of new technology. Permitted sources will be required to pay fees, based on the amount of pollutants emitted, to cover all the direct and indirect costs of the operating permit program.

The federal act also requires permitted sources to install pollution control technology. New or modified industrial sources are required to meet "lowest achievable emission reductions" (LAER) standards in non-attainment areas and "best available control technology" (BACT) standards in attainment areas. Existing industrial sources must meet

"reasonably available control technology" (RACT) standards. LAER is a more stringent and more expensive standard than BACT. BACT is a more stringent and generally more expensive standard than RACT.

The federal act addresses pollution from motor vehicles through a number of provisions, including tighter emission specifications for fuel and vehicles. Additionally, all areas not meeting federal standards for carbon monoxide and ozone are required to test vehicle emissions. This provision will expand this state's current inspection and maintenance program, currently in effect for the greater Seattle and Spokane areas, to the urban area from Everett to Tacoma, and the greater Vancouver area.

The federal act also contains a number of provisions to address toxic air pollutants, global warming, acid rain, civil and criminal penalties, citizen suits, and research and development.

In this state, air pollution is increasingly recognized as a serious environmental threat. Last year, citizens and representatives from several state and federal agencies independently cited air pollution as the state's top environmental problem during the governor's Environment 2010 project.

Washington currently has 13 areas, located across the state, officially designated as "non-attainment" areas - areas that do not meet federal air quality standards. Several other areas in the state are suspected of not meeting federal standards. The Department of Ecology estimates that 3 million people in the state live in areas with unhealthy levels of air pollution.

Though individual areas may differ considerably, the statewide annual average contribution to air pollution is as follows: motor vehicles 45 percent, industrial sources 25 percent, woodstoves and fireplaces 20 percent, and outdoor burning 10 percent.

Air pollution is regulated at the local level by counties or groups of counties known as local air pollution control authorities. If a county chooses not to form a local air authority, the area is regulated by the Department of Ecology. In addition, the department has exclusive authority over air pollution from certain facilities, such as pulp mills and aluminum smelters.

Summary:

GOALS AND PUBLIC POLICY:

A number of legislative findings and goals are established. These sections generally reflect three principles: 1) all air polluters should pay for the costs of air pollution; 2) state laws should prevent deterioration of air quality; and 3) state government should be a role model in reducing air pollution.

MOTOR VEHICLES AND FUELS:

Inspection and Maintenance (I&M) Program: The repair waiver of the inspection and maintenance program is increased from \$50 to \$100 for pre-1981 vehicles. However, if the EPA disapproves of the repair waiver, the repair waiver will be at least \$450 for all vehicles, as per federal law.

Diesel-powered cars and trucks are included in the inspection program. The I&M program is to remain biennial unless the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires an annual program. State agencies outside inspection boundaries will be required to annually inspect vehicle emissions if the agency has a fleet of 20 or more vehicles. A legislative task force is created to help low-income persons owning older cars with excess vehicle emissions to purchase newer, less-polluting vehicles. The January 1, 1993 termination date of the I&M program is deleted. House and Senate committees are no longer involved in reviewing I&M boundaries. Motor vehicle dealers in non-attainment areas must disclose certain information to car buyers relating to the vehicle emission tests.

Alternative Fuels: The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is directed to develop emission specifications for clean-fuels and clean-fuel vehicles. At least 30 percent of vehicles purchased through a state contract must be designated as clean fuel vehicles. Beginning in 1992, the Department of Ecology and other state agencies are to prepare a biennial report on the effectiveness of the procurement program. The Utilities and Transportation Commission is directed to identify barriers to establishing re-fueling stations for compressed natural gas and to develop policies to remove those barriers. Ecology may disburse matching grants to local governments to offset the costs of purchase or operation of clean fuel vehicles used for public transit. The state Energy Office is to convene a group to study the feasibility of using compressed natural gas as a school bus fuel.

Conformity: Transportation projects must conform with the state air plan if the project is in, or affects, a non-attainment area.

Motor Vehicle Registration Fee: A \$2.25 clean air fee is added to all registered vehicles. Farm vehicles are exempt from the fee. The air pollution control account is created. Funds from the additional \$2.25 registration fee are deposited into the account. The fee is reduced to \$2.00 beginning in July of 1993.

Emission Standards/Solar Cars: The Department of Ecology must recommend to the Legislature whether or not to adopt California vehicle emission standards. Ecology is directed to contract with Western Washington University to conduct research and development on solar cars and other clean fuel vehicles.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL POLLUTION SOURCES:

Ecology and local air authorities are required to issue renewable operating permits to sources required to have permits under federal law, and sources in areas of poor air quality if identified by Ecology or a local air authority as a public health threat.

New and modified sources are required to meet the BACT standard, except where federal law requires the source to meet the LAER standard. Existing sources must meet the RACT emission standard.

For calendar years 1991 and 1992, a \$10 interim fee is imposed on sources emitting 100 or more tons of a regulated pollutant. Eight dollars will go to Ecology for developing the operating permit program; \$2 will go to local air authorities for their costs in developing the permit program. Ecology must recommend fee levels to the Legislature for the cost of implementing or overseeing the operating permit program by November 1, 1992.

Ecology must develop recommendations to reduce air emissions for sources that are not subject to industrial permits and emit 10 or more tons of a criteria pollutant or one or more tons of a toxic pollutant .

Ecology may require, by rule, sources to install generic technology requirements. Such rules must account for the remaining useful life of any existing control technology that an affected source has previously installed. Ecology is directed to provide information and technical assistance to help small businesses comply with the provisions of this act.

Persons guilty of violating the State Clean Air Act or the inspection and maintenance program are subject to a fine of up to \$10,000 and the cost of investigation and prosecution,

or by imprisonment of up to one year, or both fine and imprisonment. Persons who knowingly release hazardous pollutants in violation of the act, are subject to a fine of up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment of up to five years. Civil penalties are increased from \$1,000 per day to \$10,000 per day. Other enforcement actions are specified. A science advisory board is created to recommend methods to evaluate the risks associated with toxic air pollutants.

Local air authorities must notify a source of a violation at least 30 days before taking enforcement action and offer the violator a chance to meet with the authority.

Actions of the Department of Ecology and local air authorities preempt other state and local government entities on actions relating to air pollution from hazardous material storage as regulated under the uniform building and fire codes. The Department of Ecology is to develop rules for excusable excess emissions.

OUTDOOR BURNING:

Outdoor burning is prohibited in areas that exceed federal air quality standards for pollutants emitted by outdoor burning, urban growth areas as defined in the Growth Management Act, and cities of 10,000 or more if the city is threatened to exceed federal standards and has a alternative disposal option readily available. Permits are required for residential outdoor burning and commercial land clearing.

Silvicultural Burning: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must administer a program to reduce silvicultural slash burn emissions 20 percent by 1994, and 50 percent by 2000. Emission reductions apply to all forest lands, including those owned by the U.S. Forest Service. DNR must take actions to limit emissions if goals are not met. DNR is required to assess permit fees at a level to cover permitting costs. Silvicultural burns are prohibited during periods of air impairment. DNR must encourage alternative forest practices to reduce the need for burning.

Agricultural Burning: Agricultural burning is prohibited during periods of air impairment. An advisory committee is established to recommend fee levels and to identify best management practices and research and development needs. The Department of Ecology must set agricultural burning fees at the level recommended by the agricultural burning task force. The fees cannot exceed \$2.50 per acre except for increases for inflation. Persons implementing best management practices are eligible for reduced fees.

WOODSTOVES AND FIREPLACES:

New woodstoves sold after January 1, 1995 must meet an emission standard of 4.5 grams per hour for non-catalytic stoves and 2.5 grams per hour for catalytic stoves. However, if the EPA develops a new way to measure emissions, the standards will be adjusted to be equivalent to the 2.5 and 4.5 gram standards.

On January 1, 1992 the fee on new woodstove sales is increased from \$15 dollars to \$30 dollars. New woodstoves offered for sale must have a label comparing the level of emissions of the woodstove to emissions from gas and oil heating systems. An adequate source of heat, from other than woodstoves, is required for new and modified construction in urban growth areas and in areas in non-attainment for particulate matter. All used woodstoves installed after January 1, 1992, must be certified woodstoves. Fireplaces, except masonry fireplaces, must meet 1990 federal woodstove emission standards beginning in 1997.

Factory built fireplaces must meet 1990 EPA woodstoves standards by January 1997. The Building Code Council shall adopt rules by January 1, 1997 establishing a methodology for testing factory-built fireplaces designed to achieve standard equivalence to the EPA standard. The state Building Code Council must adopt design standards for masonry fireplaces before January 1, 1997. Actions by local governments concerning woodstove emission, opacity, and certification standards are preempted by any actions taken by the Department of Ecology or local air authorities. A task force is created to recommend methods to buy back old, high polluting woodstoves.

GLOBAL WARMING AND OZONE DEPLETION:

Persons repairing refrigeration systems, including automobile air conditioners, are required to collect and recycle chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's). The sale of certain CFC-containing products is prohibited, including kits for the home repair of vehicle air conditioning. Certain exemptions are provided. Ecology may not issue fines in areas where equipment to collect, recycle, or transport CFC's is not available.

MISCELLANEOUS SECTIONS:

Reasonable available control methods are required for sources or source categories contributing to the majority of state-wide emissions. The Department of Ecology is to adopt rules for all source categories by July 1, 1996.

Rules adopted by local air authorities must comply with certain requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act. Local air authorities must appoint a full-time control officer and meet at least 10 times per year.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	65	31	
Senate	31	15	(Senate amended)
House	70	26	(House concurred)

Effective: May 15, 1991
 January 1, 1992 (Sections 210 and 505)
 July 1, 1992 (Sections 602 - 603)
 January 1, 1993 (Sections 202 - 209)

Partial Veto Message: The legislative task force to assist persons with vehicles that fail emission tests and the legislative task force to encourage homeowners to voluntarily remove non-certified woodstoves are vetoed.