

HOUSE BILL REPORT

EHB 1517

*As Passed House
March 20, 1991*

Title: An act relating to Pacific Ocean Resources Compact.

Brief Description: Ratifying the Pacific Ocean Resources Compact.

Sponsor(s): Representatives Phillips, Horn, Rust, Basich, Jacobsen, D. Sommers, Brekke, Van Luven, Valle, Sprenkle, G. Fisher, R. King and Wang.

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
Environmental Affairs, February 26, 1991, DPA;
Appropriations, March 8, 1991, DPA(ENA);
Passed House, March 20, 1991, 93-0.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Majority Report: *Do pass as amended.* Signed by 13 members: Representatives Rust, Chair; Valle, Vice Chair; Horn, Ranking Minority Member; Edmondson, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Bray; Brekke; G. Fisher; Neher; Phillips; Pruitt; D. Sommers; Sprenkle; and Van Luven.

Staff: Harry Reinert (786-7110).

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS**

Majority Report: *Do pass as amended by Committee on Environmental Affairs.* Signed by 28 members: Representatives Locke, Chair; Inslee, Vice Chair; Spanel, Vice Chair; Silver, Ranking Minority Member; Morton, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appelwick; Belcher; Bowman; Braddock; Brekke; Ebersole; Ferguson; Fuhrman; Hine; Lisk; May; McLean; Mielke; Nealey; Peery; Pruitt; Rust; H. Sommers; Sprenkle; Valle; Vance; Wang; and Wineberry.

Staff: Susan Nakagawa (786-7145).

Background: The Western Legislative Conference Ocean Resources Committee has recommended to the west coast states

an interstate compact for the regulation of transportation of oil and hazardous substances on the coastal waters. The States/B.C. Oil Spill Task Force Report also included a recommendation that an interstate compact be examined.

Summary of Bill: The Pacific Ocean Resources Compact is adopted.

The compact may be joined by the states of Oregon, Alaska, California, and Washington and the Province of British Columbia. The compact is intended to assist in the promotion of interstate commerce, to provide authority to the states to regulate activities that currently are the responsibility of the federal government, to give the states authority to direct some of the activities of federal agencies, and to allow the west coast states to join with British Columbia to have more control over issues of mutual concern related to the transportation of oil.

The compact establishes the Pacific Ocean Resources Compact Authority to implement the intent of the compact. The authority has the power to establish uniform safety standards for vessel routes, crews, and equipment. It will also establish a network of response plans of the states, the federal government, and private parties.

The authority has the power to establish requirements for vessel contingency plans within the compact zone. These requirements must be as stringent as the requirements of the Federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The authority shall work with the individual states to achieve as much consistency as possible with the individual state requirements.

The authority shall serve as a forum for public participation, interaction with the federal government, and an information clearinghouse on spill response activities. The authority may also establish a schedule of civil penalties for violations of the compact rules.

Each party to the compact has three representatives on the compact organization, however each party has one vote. A majority of the parties must approve any action or decision.

Each party to the compact is responsible for a share of the expenses of the compact. The amount is determined based on the relative proportion of a party's gross state product to the gross state product of all of the parties. A party is obligated for a minimum of 10 percent and a maximum of 50 percent of the compact budget.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Upon ratification by one state and approval by Congress.

Testimony For: (Environmental Affairs): An interstate compact will give the west coast states some additional authority to regulate marine transportation of oil and hazardous substances. The compact will also provide some consistency in regulation for those involved in trade on the west coast.

(Appropriations): None.

Testimony Against: (Environmental Affairs): None.

(Appropriations): None.

Witnesses: (Environmental Affairs): Prime Sponsor, Representative Bob Basich (pro); and Randy Ray, AEQUUS (with concerns).

(Appropriations): None.