
HOUSE BILL 2833

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Fraser, McLean, Rayburn, Edmondson, Valle, Miller, Belcher, Brekke and Haugen

Read first time 01/29/92. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to water conservation and reclamation; adding new
2 sections to chapter 43.70 RCW; creating new sections; and making an
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) The state of Washington has a critical need to preserve water
7 resources and to assure the maximum net benefit to the citizens of the
8 state in the use of these resources;

9 (2) In order to protect and preserve the natural resources of the
10 state of Washington, which is of paramount importance to its citizens,
11 the conservation of water is an indispensable activity; and

12 (3) By encouraging the use of reclaimed water while assuring the
13 health and safety of all Washington citizens and the protection of its

1 environment, the state of Washington will continue to use water in the
2 best interests of present and future generations.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
6 this section apply throughout section 3 of this act.

7 (1) "Sewage" means water-carried human wastes, including kitchen,
8 bath, and laundry waste from residences, buildings, industrial and
9 commercial establishments, or other places, together with such ground
10 water infiltration, surface waters, or industrial wastewater as may be
11 present.

12 (2) "Person" means any state, individual, public or private
13 corporation, political subdivision, governmental subdivision,
14 governmental agency, municipality, copartnership, association, firm,
15 trust estate, or any other legal entity whatever.

16 (3) "Greywater" means domestic type wastewater, not including
17 toilet water.

18 (4) "User" means any person who uses reclaimed water.

19 (5) "Reclaimed water" means treated effluent from a sewage
20 treatment system that, as a result of treatment, is suitable for a
21 direct beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise
22 occur.

23 (6) "Wastewater" means water and wastes discharged from homes,
24 businesses, and industry to the sewer system.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW
26 to read as follows:

27 (1) The department shall, in coordination with the department of
28 ecology, develop standards, procedures, and guidelines by March 1,

1 1993, for the use of reclaimed water. Uses shall be limited to
2 irrigation for agriculture, municipal irrigation, landscape
3 enhancement, and industrial and commercial uses that begin after the
4 effective date of this act.

5 (2) The department may require a permit for the use of reclaimed
6 water and may require a reasonable fee for the acquisition of such a
7 permit. The department may require the permit to be renewed on a
8 periodic basis. No person may use reclaimed water for uses allowed in
9 this section without such permits as may be required from the
10 department, or, where required by this section, from the department of
11 ecology.

12 (3)(a) If an intended use of reclaimed water is proposed using
13 water from a facility for which a waste discharge permit is required
14 from the department of ecology, the holder of the waste discharge
15 permit must obtain approval from the department of ecology for the
16 proposed use. The department of ecology shall request review from the
17 department for the intended use and shall condition any approval for
18 the use as required by the department of health for the type and
19 location of use treatment, monitoring, and periodic review.

20 (b) If a proposed use of reclaimed water involves a plan or project
21 that is not required to obtain a waste discharge permit from the
22 department of ecology, the prospective user must obtain any permits
23 required by the department prior to beginning such use.

24 (4) The department shall report to the legislature on progress,
25 compliance, and overall participation in the use of reclaimed water in
26 the state of Washington and, to the extent possible, on the resulting
27 savings of water. The report shall also review and evaluate all uses
28 of reclaimed water as of the effective date of this act, with
29 recommendations as to the application of standards, procedures, and
30 guidelines by the department to such existing uses. The report shall

1 further consider potential uses of greywater, including potential
2 health impacts, and provide recommendations for such uses. The
3 department shall prepare the report in cooperation with the department
4 of ecology, state building code council, and board. The report under
5 this section is due March 1, 1994.

6 (5) The authority and duties created in this section are in
7 addition to any authority and duties already provided in law with
8 regard to sewage and wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal for
9 the protection of health and safety and the protection of the quality
10 of the state's waters. Nothing in this section limits the powers of
11 the state or any political subdivision to exercise such authority.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of ecology shall adopt,
13 in consultation with the department of health, standards, procedures,
14 and guidelines for the land applications of treated wastewater on or
15 before January 1, 1993.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of four hundred thousand
17 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
18 the biennium ending June 30, 1995, from the state and local
19 improvements revolving account--water supply facilities to the
20 department of health for the purposes of this act.