

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1999

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As Reported By House Committee On:  
Energy & Utilities

**Title:** An act relating to public water system emergency response requirements.

**Brief Description:** Requiring back-up power for public water systems.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Campbell, Grant, Mastin and Veloria.

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Energy & Utilities, March 2, 1993, DPS.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & UTILITIES

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives Grant, Chair; Finkbeiner, Vice Chair; Casada, Ranking Minority Member; Miller, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Johanson; Kessler; Long; and Ludwig.

**Minority Report:** Without recommendation. Signed by 1 member: Representative Kremen.

**Staff:** Harry Reinert (786-7110).

**Background:** The state Board of Health regulates public water systems in the state. A public water system is any system having two or more connections. The board's rules are required to include provision for emergency response. The board's rules require a public water system to provide an "adequate quantity and quality of water in a reliable manner at all times." The system is also required to ensure that "the system is constructed, operated, and maintained to protect against failures of power supply ...."

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** The state Board of Health shall include, in its rules, provisions requiring public water systems to be able to maintain an adequate supply and quality of water during a power outage or natural disaster. The provisions shall make allowances for the size and nature

of public water systems and for the financial impacts of the provisions on the systems.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The original bill directed the state Board of Health to include, in its rules, a requirement that public water systems have a back-up power source capable of maintaining a water system's water for 48 hours. The back-up power source would have been required to be tested every 60 days.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested February 23, 1993.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The recent wind storm left many home owners without a vital necessity, water. Public water systems should be required to make provisions to be able to meet these types of circumstances.

**Testimony Against:** (Original Bill) The cost of providing back-up power can be quite expensive for very small water systems. There may be better ways of meeting the objectives of the bill without requiring back-up power. These requirements may not be appropriate for large systems.

**Witnesses:** Rep. Tom Campbell, prime sponsor (pro); William Hawn, Kitsap County PUD (con, original bill); Richard Junk, Woodland Park Water Association (pro); Dave Clark, Department of Health (pro); Greg Hanon, Tacoma Public Utilities (con, original bill); and Bill Scott, citizen (con, original bill).