

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2082

As Passed House:

April 12, 1995

Title: An act relating to eliminating the wood stove education program and associated fees.

Brief Description: Eliminating the wood stove education program.

Sponsors: Representative Chandler.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Appropriations: 3/21/95, 3/22/95 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 4/12/95, 69-27.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 22 members: Representatives Silver, Chairman; Clements, Vice Chairman; Huff, Vice Chairman; Pelesky, Vice Chairman; Basich; Beeksma; Brumsickle; Carlson; Chappell; Cooke; Crouse; Foreman; Grant; Hargrove; Hickel; Lambert; Lisk; McMorris; Reams; Sehlin; Sheahan and Talcott.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Sommers, Ranking Minority Member; Valle, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Dellwo; G. Fisher; Jacobsen; Poulsen; Rust; Thibaudeau and Wolfe.

Staff: Nancy Stevenson (786-7137).

Background: In 1987, the Legislature directed the Department of Ecology to establish a program to educate the public and wood stove dealers regarding emissions from the use of wood stoves. The program must include information about: the effects of wood stove emissions; methods of achieving better emission performance; the benefits of replacing inefficient wood stoves; and wood stoves that have been approved by the department and the Environmental Protection Agency as meeting emission standards.

The original legislation established a flat fee of \$5 on the retail sale of wood stoves to support the education program. The fee was increased by the Legislature to \$15 in

1990, and to \$30 in 1991. In 1990, the use of fee revenue was expanded to include enforcement activities. Fees are deposited into the Wood Stove Education and Enforcement Account.

The 1993-95 Omnibus Appropriations Act appropriates \$1.3 million from wood stove fees.

Summary of Bill: The bill repeals the requirement for the Department of Ecology to establish the wood stove public education program. The Wood Stove Education and Enforcement Account is eliminated. The \$30 wood stove fee is repealed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on March 20, 1995.

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

Testimony For: None.

Testimony Against: Wood stove emissions represent 12 percent of the state's air particulate pollution problem. This program takes a cooperative approach in reducing emissions from wood stoves and avoids more heavy handed regulations. This program should be continued, not eliminated.

Testified: Bruce Wishart, Sierra Club (con).