

2 **2SHB 2054** - S AMD TO S AMD (S3035.3) - 478
3 By Senator Spanel

4 PULLED 4/18/97 - REPLACED BY #505

5 On page 21, after line 25, insert the following:

6 "PART III
7 **CRITICAL WATERSHED FUNCTIONS**

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 301.** A new section is added to chapter 90.71
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1) The legislature finds that:

11 (a) Environmental laws, rules, and policies to improve water
12 quality have generally been developed in response to specific problems;

13 (b) This case-by-case approach to water quality management has
14 resulted in numerous planning, permit, and funding requirements that
15 are often confusing, contradictory, and inefficient;

16 (c) Lack of integrated water quality policies has resulted in less
17 effective environmental protection, increased taxpayer costs, and
18 considerable public frustration;

19 (d) There is broad consensus that integration of water quality
20 policies is best achieved by adopting a broader geographic approach
21 that is based on how that geographic system works;

22 (e) Scientific knowledge, technology, and data is currently
23 available to identify the critical biological and physical functions of
24 geographic systems, such as watersheds. However, this knowledge,
25 technology, and data is scattered among many federal, state, local, and
26 private entities; and

27 (f) The Puget Sound action team was organized to coordinate
28 federal, state, local, and private efforts across a broad geographic
29 area.

30 (2) The legislature therefore declares that the action team shall
31 undertake the actions identified in section 2 of this act to enhance
32 the ability of state and local governments to develop environmental
33 regulations that are better integrated and make better use of existing
34 science.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 302.** A new section is added to chapter 90.71
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The action team shall develop, and thereafter shall
4 periodically update a methodology, using geographic information system
5 maps, to identify critical watershed functions within a water resource
6 inventory area. The methodology must identify, at a minimum:

- 7 (a) Critical watershed functions;
- 8 (b) Areas where critical functions are impaired;
- 9 (c) The causes of function impairment;
- 10 (d) Areas where functions are working properly; and
- 11 (e) Current land uses.

12 (2) The action team shall initiate a case study of at least one
13 Puget Sound water resource inventory area, using the information under
14 subsection (1) of this section, to develop policy recommendations to
15 expedite:

- 16 (a) Agency decision making on mitigation proposals other than
17 traditional on-site, in-kind exchanges; and
- 18 (b) Preparation of plans required under chapters 36.70A, 86.12, and
19 90.58 RCW. Recommendations under this subsection shall include
20 specific changes to state laws and rules.

21 (3) In developing policy recommendations under this section, the
22 action team shall involve all interested units of local government and
23 may involve any other interested group or person.

24 (4) As used in this section, the following definitions apply.

25 (a) "Water resource inventory area" has the same meaning as in WAC
26 173-500-040.

27 (b) "Critical watershed function" means any geological,
28 hydrological, or biological function that preserves, protects, or
29 enhances water quality, water quantity, fish and wildlife, or flood
30 protection.

31 (5) The policy recommendations under subsection (2) of this section
32 shall be submitted to the appropriate standing committees of the
33 legislature by December 1, 1999."

34 Renumber the sections consecutively and correct any internal references accordingly.

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4 On page 41, on line 15 of the title amendment, after "RCW;", insert "adding a new
5 section to chapter 90.71 RCW;"

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EFFECT: Requires development of a methodology to identify critical ecological functions within a WRIA and completion of a case study.