

2 **2SHB 2054** - S AMD TO S AMD (S3282.1) - 505  
3 By Senator Spanel

4 NOT ADOPTED 4/18/97

5 On page 22, after line 5, insert the following:

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 401.** 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. 402.**    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.

1 **2SHB 2054** - S AMD TO S AMD (S3277.1) - 505

2 By Senator Spanel

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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.