

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2717

As Passed House:
February 10, 1998

Title: An act relating to the implementation of House Joint Resolution No. 4209 approved by the voters in 1997.

Brief Description: Implementing House Joint Resolution No. 4209.

Sponsors: Representatives Chandler, Regala and Dunn.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Agriculture & Ecology: 1/26/98, 1/28/98 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/10/98, 96-0.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ECOLOGY

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Chandler, Chairman; Schoesler, Vice Chairman; Parlette, Vice Chairman; Linville, Ranking Minority Member; Anderson, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Cooper; Delvin; Koster; Mastin; Regala and Sump.

Staff: Bill Lynch (786-7092).

Background: The voters approved House Joint Resolution 4209 in the 1997 general election. This joint resolution amended the Washington State Constitution to allow local governments engaged in the sale or distribution of storm water or sewer services, to provide low cost financing to assist owners of structures or equipment in acquiring and installing materials and equipment which will conserve or allow for more efficient use of the storm water or sewer services. The low cost financing must be repaid and becomes a lien on the structure unless the assistance is considered to constitute necessary support of the poor or infirm.

Although the voters approved this constitutional amendment, implementing legislation is considered to be necessary before some local governments can provide this assistance.

Summary of Bill: Any city, code city, town, county, special purpose district, municipal corporation, or quasi-municipal corporation engaged in the sale or distribution of storm water or sewer services, may use public moneys or credit derived from operating

revenues from the sale of storm water or sewer services to assist the owners of structures or equipment in acquiring and installing materials and equipment which will conserve or allow for more efficient use of the storm water or sewer services. Unless the assistance is provided for the necessary support of the poor or infirm, a charge-back must be made for the assistance. The charge-back is a lien against the structure or a security interest against the equipment which is benefitted. The statutory authority for this assistance becomes effective on July 1, 1998.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Testimony For: This will benefit ratepayers and the environment. This will allow the constitutional amendment passed by the voters to be implemented so that local governments can offer the same types of programs currently offered for weatherization.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Ed Thorpe, Coalition for Clean Water; and John Stetson, Tacoma Public Works Department.