

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1308

C 40 L 98

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Providing additional exemptions from state law for the handling of hazardous devices.

Sponsors: Representatives Mielke, McMorris, Mulliken, Sterk and McDonald.

Senate Committee on Law & Justice
House Committee on Commerce & Labor

Background: The Washington State Explosives Act governs the manufacture, use, and handling of explosives. The Department of Labor and Industries approves the use of explosives. No person may manufacture, possess, store, sell, purchase, transport, or use explosives unless licensed by the department.

Certain uses are exempt from the explosives act. For example, the normal and emergency operations of federal agencies involving transportation, storage, and use of explosives are exempt. Only emergency operations of state agencies, police, and any municipality or county involving such activity are exempt.

Local government explosive disposal units may be subject to restrictions under the explosives act when handling and storing explosives. Certain training exercises conducted with explosive materials and other normal operations of the unit are restricted by regulations governing the handling and possession of explosives.

Summary: Certain work by a hazardous devices technician is exempt from the Washington State Explosives Act. Exempt activity includes performing normal and emergency operations, handling evidence, and operating and maintaining specially designed emergency response vehicles that carry no more than 10 pounds of explosive material. Training activities conducted by a hazardous devices technician whose employer possesses the minimum safety equipment prescribed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation are also exempt. A hazardous devices technician is a person who has graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation hazardous devices school and who is employed by a state, county, or municipality.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 94 0

Senate 47 0

Effective: June 11, 1998