

ANALYSIS OF HB 1396

House Agriculture & Ecology Committee

February 3, 1997

BACKGROUND:

Volatile organic compounds (VOC's) are a category of air pollutants that are a precursor to ground level ozone (smog). Sources of VOC's include fuels, solvents, paints, and incompletely combusted wood and fuel emissions.

Businesses using automotive paint containing VOC's may be subject to a number of air regulations, including registration requirements, emissions limits, and equipment standards.

Federal regulations (40 C.F.R. Sec. 51.165) list a group of compounds that are excluded from the definition of volatile organic compounds— and therefore do not have significant ozone forming potential.

Rules adopted by the Department of Ecology require that any person involved in generating, transporting, or managing dangerous wastes must have a current EPA/state identification number (WAC 173-303-060). This provision allows the Department to track dangerous wastes from generation to final disposal.

SUMMARY:

A person may not buy automotive paint in containers greater than 16 ounces without presenting a dangerous waste identification number. A person buying automotive paint is responsible for recording the identification onto all bills of sale at the time of purchase. This record-keeping requirement applies only to automotive paints listed by the EPA as having significant ozone forming potential.