
HOUSE BILL 3056

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Chandler, Linville and Constantine

Read first time 01/28/98. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

1 AN ACT Relating to implementing the recommendations of the on-site
2 wastewater certification work group; adding a new section to chapter
3 70.05 RCW; and creating new sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The 1997 legislature directed the
6 department of health to convene a work group for the purpose of making
7 recommendations to the legislature for the development of a
8 certification program for occupations related to on-site septic
9 systems, including those who pump, install, design, perform
10 maintenance, inspect, or regulate on-site septic systems. The work
11 group was convened and studied issues relating to certification of
12 people employed in these occupations, bonding levels, and other
13 standards related to these occupations. In addition, the work group
14 examined the application of a risk analysis pertaining to the
15 installation and maintenance of different types of septic systems in
16 different parts of the state. A written report containing the work
17 group's findings and recommendations was submitted to the legislature
18 as directed.

1 (2) The legislature recognizes that the recommendations of the work
2 group must be phased-in over a time period in order to develop the
3 necessary scope of work requirements, knowledge requirements, public
4 protection requirements, and other criteria for the upgrading of these
5 occupations. It is the intent of the legislature to start implementing
6 the work group's recommendations by focusing first on the occupations
7 that are considered to be the highest priority, and to address the
8 other occupational recommendations in subsequent sessions.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of licensing and the
10 department of health shall jointly convene an advisory committee for
11 the purpose of developing legislation that will establish licensing
12 requirements for the designers of on-site septic systems. The
13 departments shall develop the legislation consistent with the findings
14 and recommendations contained in the written report developed by the
15 on-site wastewater certification work group. The proposed legislation
16 shall be submitted to the senate agriculture and environment committee
17 and the house of representatives agriculture and ecology committee by
18 December 1, 1998.

19 (2) The department of health, in consultation with local health
20 officers, shall develop a certification program for inspectors of on-
21 site septic systems that tests the same knowledge and competency
22 required for licensed designers of on-site septic systems.

23 (3) The department of licensing and the department of health shall
24 report on the time frames and feasibility for developing proposed
25 legislation that implements the other on-site wastewater certification
26 work group's recommendations by December 1, 1998.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.05 RCW
28 to read as follows:

29 (1) The department of health, in consultation and cooperation with
30 local environmental health officers, shall develop a one-day course to
31 train local environmental health officers, health officers, and
32 environmental health specialists and technicians to address the
33 application of the waiver authority granted under RCW 70.05.072 as well
34 as other existing statutory or regulatory flexibility for siting on-
35 site sewage systems.

36 (2) The training course shall include the following topics:

1 (a) The statutory authority to grant waivers from the state on-site
2 sewage system rules;

3 (b) The regulatory framework for the application of on-site sewage
4 treatment and disposal technologies, with an emphasis on the
5 differences between rules, standards, and guidance. The course shall
6 include instruction on interpreting the intent of a rule rather than
7 the strict reading of the language of a rule, and also discuss the
8 liability assumed by a unit of local government when local rules,
9 policies, or practices deviate from the state administrative code;

10 (c) The application of site evaluation and assessment methods to
11 match the particular site and development plans with the on-site sewage
12 treatment and disposal technology suitable to protect public health to
13 at least the level provided by state rule; and

14 (d) Instruction in the concept and application of mitigation
15 waivers.

16 (3) The training course shall be made available to all local health
17 departments and districts in various locations in the state without
18 fee. Updated guidance documents and materials shall be provided to all
19 participants, including examples of the types of waivers and processes
20 that other jurisdictions in the region have granted and used. The
21 first training conducted under this section shall take place by June
22 30, 1999.

--- END ---