
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5079

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment (originally sponsored by Senator Swecker)

Read first time 02/05/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to permit processing; adding new sections to
2 chapter 90.48 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The purpose of this act is to encourage
5 environmental permit program efficiency and pollution prevention
6 through increased private sector participation in the preparation of
7 wastewater discharge permits currently administered by the department
8 of ecology. The legislature recognizes that pollution prevention can
9 often be accomplished through cooperative partnerships between
10 government and industry and through voluntary changes in industrial
11 production methods. By using expertise available in the private
12 sector, the permit preparation option provided in this act is intended
13 to reduce the time required to issue wastewater discharge permits and
14 better protect the water quality of the state.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 90.48 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 Within fifteen days of receipt of an application for the issuance
18 of a new permit or modification of an existing permit under RCW

1 90.48.160 or 90.48.260, the department shall determine whether it is
2 likely that the permit will be processed within one hundred eighty
3 days. If the permit will not be processed within one hundred eighty
4 days, the applicant shall be notified. Upon receipt of this
5 notification, an applicant may choose to proceed with the draft permit
6 preparation option in section 3 of this act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 90.48 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) Any person applying for the issuance of a new permit or
10 modification of an existing permit under RCW 90.48.160 or 90.48.260 may
11 submit the application with a draft permit and fact sheet.

12 (2) The department shall approve or deny the permit proposal within
13 forty-five days of submission if no public hearing is required, or
14 within ninety days of submission if a public hearing is required. The
15 department may seek to negotiate a permit proposal with the applicant
16 if both parties agree to the process. The department retains full
17 authority under this chapter to approve, modify, or disapprove any
18 draft permit or fact sheet submitted under this section.

19 (3) The department shall make available guidelines specifying the
20 elements of a complete draft permit and fact sheet.

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