
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6639

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Morton and Swecker)

Read first time 02/06/98.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a pilot project for noxious weed
2 control in state highway rights of way; creating new sections; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the department of
6 transportation is responsible for control of noxious weeds in the full
7 width of state highway rights of way. The legislature further finds
8 that an effective noxious weed control program for state highway rights
9 of way requires close cooperation with local noxious weed control
10 boards in order to ensure that locally identified weed control
11 priorities are addressed.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of transportation shall
13 develop a pilot project to test the effectiveness of greater
14 coordination between the department and local noxious weed control
15 boards. The pilot program shall be implemented in maintenance area
16 three in the north central region. The pilot project shall be
17 implemented for the 1998 control season using the following procedures:

1 (1) Immediately following the effective date of this act, the
2 relevant noxious weed control boards shall identify specific weed
3 control priorities within their jurisdiction by (a) precise geographic
4 areas; (b) specific species within each maintenance area; (c)
5 recommended control methods; and (d) recommended timing of the control
6 work. In those maintenance areas that encompass more than one noxious
7 weed control board, the boards must coordinate their noxious weed
8 priorities with the department in order to be eligible to participate
9 in the pilot project;

10 (2) Within three weeks of receiving the list of priorities, the
11 department shall provide the noxious weed control board with a plan to
12 address the identified priorities that includes as a minimum: (a) The
13 budget allocated for noxious weed control for the 1998 season in
14 maintenance area three in the north central region; (b) identified
15 control methods; (c) timing of control work; (d) communication and
16 response protocol procedures with the weed board; and (e) possible
17 options for contracting portions of the work; and

18 (3) The local weed boards and the department shall prepare a plan.
19 The plan shall govern the noxious weed control activities in these
20 maintenance areas for the period beginning May 1, 1998, through the end
21 of the 1998 control season.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of transportation shall
23 submit a report that has been reviewed by and for which comments have
24 been received from the participating local noxious weed control boards
25 by December 1, 1998, to the legislative transportation committee
26 reporting the results of the pilot project required in section 2 of
27 this act.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
29 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
30 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
31 immediately.

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