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HOUSE BILL 2623

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Regala, Anderson, Wolfe, Edmonds and Romero; by request of Commissioner of Public Lands and Department of Fish and Wildlife

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to studying options for funding contaminated  
2 sediment cleanup; creating new sections; making an appropriation; and  
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that decades of  
6 urban population growth, as well as transportation, industrial, and  
7 commercial uses, are having detrimental impacts on many of the state's  
8 harbors. These harbor areas are also important for recreation,  
9 commerce, navigation, and habitat. The legislature also recognizes  
10 that its estuaries and harbors are critical to the health of its  
11 aquatic environment, including endangered species. Most of these  
12 submerged lands are owned by the state and managed on behalf of all  
13 Washington citizens.

14 The legislature also finds that many of these harbors have  
15 contaminated sediments. Over five thousand acres of the Puget Sound's  
16 harbors are contaminated at more than sixty sites. The legislature  
17 declares that these contaminated sites need to be cleaned up and  
18 restored in order to protect the public health and environment and to  
19 provide economic options for future generations.

1 Many of these sites are designated by the environmental protection  
2 agency or the department of ecology under the comprehensive,  
3 environmental, response, compensation and liability act or the model  
4 toxics control act.

5 There are several barriers in place that make cleanup and  
6 restoration of these harbors difficult, including the ability for the  
7 state to pay for the public's share of the cleanup and restoration. It  
8 has been estimated that up to four hundred fifty million dollars might  
9 be needed to accomplish the cleanup in the Puget Sound alone.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington state institute for public  
11 policy is directed to research options for funding of cleanup of  
12 contaminated sediments in the Puget Sound area. The institute shall  
13 review and develop recommendations on the following subjects, at a  
14 minimum:

- 15 (1) Sources of existing funds and the balances and restrictions;  
16 (2) Amount of contamination, types of contamination, location and  
17 cost estimates for the total cleanup, and the public's share of the  
18 cost;  
19 (3) New funding source options; and  
20 (4) Funding eligibility criteria.

21 The institute shall involve the departments of ecology, natural  
22 resources, fish and wildlife, and transportation and the Puget Sound  
23 action team. The institute shall report back to the senate committee  
24 on natural resources, parks and recreation and the house of  
25 representatives committee on natural resources no later than December  
26 1, 2000.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires March 31, 2001.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
29 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
30 June 30, 2000, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
31 void.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or  
33 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal

1 year ending June 30, 2001, from the general fund to the Washington  
2 state institute for public policy for the purposes of this act.

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