
HOUSE BILL 2997

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Linville and G. Chandler

Read first time 01/25/2000. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

1 AN ACT Relating to delegation of authority for water well tagging,
2 sealing, and decommissioning; amending RCW 18.104.043; amending 1996 c
3 12 s 1 (uncodified); and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** 1996 c 12 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

6 The legislature finds that experimental delegation of portions of
7 the well drilling administration and enforcement authority of the
8 department of ecology to willing and able local governments has been
9 successful to date. Delegation has provided a more effective and
10 efficient means of assuring proper well construction and
11 decommissioning and protection of public health and safety than could
12 be accomplished by the department of ecology acting alone. The
13 legislature further finds that without legislative action, the
14 authority for such delegation will expire June 30, 1996. Therefore, it
15 is the intent of the legislature to (~~extend the authority for~~)
16 permanently authorize delegation (~~an additional four years~~)).

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.104.043 and 1996 c 12 s 2 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

1 (1) If requested in writing by the governing body of a local health
2 district or county, the department by memorandum of agreement may
3 delegate to the governing body the authority to administer and enforce
4 the well tagging, sealing, and decommissioning portions of the water
5 well construction program.

6 (2) The department shall determine whether a local health district
7 or county that seeks delegation under this section has the resources,
8 capability, and expertise, including qualified field inspectors, to
9 administer the delegated program. If the department determines the
10 local government has these resources, it shall notify well contractors,
11 consultants, and operators of the proposal. The department shall
12 accept written comments on the proposal for sixty days after the notice
13 is mailed.

14 (3) If the department determines that a delegation of authority to
15 a local health district or county to administer and enforce the well
16 sealing and decommissioning portions of the water well construction
17 program will enhance the public health and safety and the environment,
18 the department and the local governing body may enter into a memorandum
19 of agreement setting forth the specific authorities delegated by the
20 department to the local governing body. The memorandum of agreement
21 shall provide for an initial review of the delegation within one year
22 and for periodic review thereafter.

23 (4) With regard to the portions of the water well construction
24 program delegated under this section, the local governing agency shall
25 exercise only the authority delegated to it under this section. If,
26 after a public hearing, the department determines that a local
27 governing body is not administering the program in accordance with this
28 chapter, it shall notify the local governing body of the deficiencies.
29 If corrective action is not taken within a reasonable time, not to
30 exceed sixty days, the department by order shall withdraw the
31 delegation of authority.

32 (5) The department shall promptly furnish the local governing body
33 with a copy of each water well report and notification of start cards
34 received in the area covered by a delegated program.

35 (6) The department and the local governing body shall coordinate to
36 reduce duplication of effort and shall share all appropriate
37 information including technical reports, violations, and well reports.

38 (7) Any person aggrieved by a decision of a local health district
39 or county under a delegated program may appeal the decision to the

1 department. The department's decision is subject to review by the
2 pollution control hearings board as provided in RCW 43.21B.110.

3 (8) The department shall not delegate the authority to license well
4 contractors, renew licenses, receive notices of intent to commence
5 constructing a well, receive well reports, or collect state fees
6 provided for in this chapter.

7 (~~(9) This section expires June 30, 2000.~~)

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
10 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
11 immediately.

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