
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6150

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Environmental Quality & Water Resources (originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Jacobsen, T. Sheldon, Fairley, Rasmussen, Gardner, Winsley, Franklin, Kline and Spanel; by request of Commissioner of Public Lands and Department of Fish and Wildlife)

Read first time 01/31/2000.

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 (CERCLA) or the
4 model toxics control act (MTCA).

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. The
10 legislature recognizes that agencies and interagency processes are
11 currently addressing types of contamination, amounts of contamination,
12 and location and cost of total cleanup of CERCLA and MTCA sites and
13 that these efforts will benefit from information regarding options for
14 funding the public share of cleanup.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington state institute for public
16 policy is directed to research options for funding the public share of
17 cleanup of contaminated sediments in the Puget Sound area. The
18 institute shall review and develop recommendations on the following
19 subjects, at a minimum:

20 (1) Sources of existing federal and state funds and the balances
21 and restrictions;

22 (2) Amount of the public's share of the cost of current cleanup
23 efforts, both federal and state, including orphan share;

24 (3) New funding source options; and

25 (4) Funding eligibility criteria, including permanent solutions
26 that minimize volumes of contaminated sediments.

27 The institute shall involve the departments of ecology, natural
28 resources, fish and wildlife, and transportation and the Puget Sound
29 action team. The institute shall report back to the legislature no
30 later than December 1, 2000.

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

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** 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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