

6542-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Environmental Quality & Water Resources (originally sponsored by Senators Kline, Costa, Heavey and Kohl-Welles)

Brief Description: Providing for citizen enforcement of health and environmental laws.

SB 6542-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Provides that any citizen may commence a civil action on his or her own behalf against any person who is alleged to have violated an environmental or public health standard or requirement, or an order issued by a governmental agency with respect to such a standard or requirement, if there is evidence of more than one day or instance of violation.

Provides that such civil action may be brought in the superior court for the county in which the alleged violation occurred or as otherwise provided in chapter 4.12 RCW or RCW 36.01.050. The superior court shall have jurisdiction to enforce the environmental or public health standard or requirement or order, to grant other injunctive relief as justice may require, to assess civil penalties, and to award costs of litigation, including reasonable attorneys' and expert witness' fees.