
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2847

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By House Committee on Agriculture & Ecology (originally sponsored by Representatives Cooper, Roach, Berkey, Cairnes, Linville, Esser, Kirby, Reardon, Casada, Doumit, Ogden, Chase and Pearson)

Read first time 02/08/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to evaluating the performance of the state storm
2 water program; adding a new section to chapter 77.85 RCW; adding new
3 sections to chapter 90.48 RCW; creating new sections; providing an
4 expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that preserving
7 water quality and avoiding further degradation of already degraded
8 waters are clear priorities for Washington state. Storm water
9 management, particularly in urban areas and growing communities,
10 presents a tremendous challenge for maintaining and improving water
11 quality. The legislature finds that consistent and predictable
12 standards for storm water management across multiple state, federal,
13 and local jurisdictions is imperative for the state to achieve
14 environmental protection in a cost-effective manner.

15 (2) The legislature also finds that storm water management must
16 satisfy state and federal water quality requirements while also
17 providing state and local agencies, development interests, and others
18 with a flexible set of tools and alternatives that can help ensure
19 cost-effective storm water management. The legislature recognizes

1 that, in attempting to address these needs, the department of ecology,
2 working with other agencies and stakeholders, has developed a storm
3 water manual for western Washington, and is in the process of
4 developing a storm water manual for eastern Washington. The
5 legislature also recognizes that manuals are designed to be used as
6 guidelines for addressing storm water impacts resulting from
7 development, road construction projects, wastewater discharge, and
8 other actions that affect streams, waterways, and hydrological
9 conditions. Although the department of ecology has made a good faith
10 effort to develop the storm water manual in a manner that has utilized
11 scientifically based information and involved input from various
12 affected parties, the legislature finds that there has been no explicit
13 statutory direction or guidance provided to the department of ecology
14 and other resource agencies in addressing storm water management. The
15 legislature therefore believes that the legislature should be involved
16 in the state's development of a storm water management process that
17 protects natural resources, and compliance with federal and state water
18 quality requirements, while providing implementation flexibility.

19 (3) The legislature further finds that the state has made
20 considerable investments in supporting watershed management, including
21 creation of data bases, organizational capacity building for watershed
22 councils, and watershed planning efforts for salmon recovery, ground
23 water protection, water supply, and flood management. The legislature
24 believes there may be significant efficiencies to be gained by
25 integrating storm water into a multijurisdictional watershed approach
26 in addition to the current focus on managing storm water on a project-
27 by-project basis. The legislature also believes a watershed approach
28 may allow state and local government to prioritize infrastructure
29 investment and develop effective storm water management strategies.
30 While a significant measure of on-site storm water management and
31 detention should be an element of any given project, the legislature
32 believes that, in some circumstances, on-site management could be
33 combined with flexible, watershed-based mitigation tools such as off-
34 site mitigation, mitigation sequencing, and the acquisition or
35 restoration of habitat. Therefore, the legislature finds that on-site
36 practicability analysis, innovations and incentives for storm water
37 banking, and retrofit strategies for existing impervious surface within
38 project boundaries should be evaluated in determining the storm water
39 strategy for individual projects.

1 (4) In addition, the legislature finds that significant
2 fragmentation in authority exists among local, state, and federal
3 agencies in managing storm water and that these agencies can better
4 coordinate standards, practices, and approaches for managing storm
5 water. The legislature believes state agencies and local governments
6 and, where appropriate, federal and tribal governments should identify
7 streamlining opportunities to address and improve coordination of storm
8 water management authority exercised by local, state, and federal
9 jurisdictions.

10 (5) Finally, the legislature acknowledges and encourages the
11 appropriate use of flexibility in storm water management. To assist
12 the legislature in reviewing the progress of storm water management,
13 the legislature finds that scientific reviews and cost-benefit analysis
14 of the storm water manual must be undertaken. In addition, the
15 legislature finds that a storm water advisory group should analyze and
16 make recommendations for flexible implementation of storm water
17 management programs.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.85 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 (1) The independent science panel created in RCW 77.85.040 must
21 review the department of ecology's storm water manual for western
22 Washington, dated August 31, 2001. The panel must:

23 (a) Determine what scientific information was used to develop the
24 manual, with particular attention to the development of management
25 practices and thresholds. The department of ecology must make all
26 information utilized in the development of the manual available to the
27 panel;

28 (b) Determine whether the recommendations in the manual are
29 supportable by the cited science. If the manual's recommendations are
30 based on inadequate scientific support, the panel must identify what
31 specific scientific studies are needed to address any identified
32 limitations.

33 (2) The panel must determine whether the recommendations for
34 alternative watershed-based storm water practices for flow control and
35 water quality treatment developed by the storm water advisory committee
36 established under section 3 of this act are scientifically supportable.
37 If the recommendations are based on inadequate scientific support, the

1 panel must identify what specific scientific studies are needed to
2 address any identified limitations.

3 (3) In accordance with the provisions of RCW 77.85.040, the panel
4 may contract with, or otherwise identify and consult with, other
5 recognized experts in hydrology, stream geomorphology, water quality,
6 and storm water management in fulfilling the duties specified in this
7 section.

8 (4) The panel must report its results for the storm water manual
9 for western Washington by December 31, 2002.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 90.48 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) The department shall convene a storm water advisory committee
13 to coordinate and assist with implementation of storm water management
14 in Washington. The storm water advisory committee shall be
15 representative of storm water interests from both eastern and western
16 Washington and shall include representatives from urban and rural areas
17 and arid and wet climates. The storm water advisory committee shall
18 consist of no more than eighteen members. The storm water advisory
19 committee shall include at least one representative of the department,
20 the department of natural resources, the department of fish and
21 wildlife, and the department of transportation. The storm water
22 advisory committee also shall include at least one representative of
23 each of the following interests, selected by the associations
24 representing those interests: Counties, cities, environmental
25 organizations, general contractors, commercial and industrial builders,
26 agricultural organizations, and businesses.

27 (2) The department shall invite and encourage representatives from
28 federal agencies and tribes to participate in the storm water advisory
29 committee.

30 (3) The storm water advisory committee shall work with the
31 department and with the department's eastern Washington storm water
32 steering committee to:

33 (a) Improve coordination between state and local government
34 agencies on storm water management, including the appropriate use of
35 the new storm water manuals and a streamlined permit process with
36 consistent outcomes and goals;

37 (b) Develop recommendations for alternative watershed-based
38 practices for flow control and water quality treatment utilizing

1 watershed planning to assess the use of regional storm water facilities
2 to augment or as an alternative to site-by-site storm water controls;

3 (c) Study, evaluate, and make recommendations on the feasibility of
4 alternative storm water management approaches in highly urbanized areas
5 and how best to address severely impaired water bodies in highly
6 urbanized areas;

7 (d) Study the appropriate use of off-site watershed-based
8 mitigation for storm water flow and water quality impacts. The study
9 shall address issues related to stream flow and water quality impacts
10 on fish species and other aquatic uses;

11 (e) Study, evaluate, and make recommendations on the funding needs
12 for local governments to meet the new federal storm water regulations;

13 (f) Assist in developing the cost-benefit analysis required in
14 section 4 of this act;

15 (g) To the maximum extent possible, coordinate efforts with the
16 transportation permit efficiency and accountability committee
17 established by RCW 47.06C.030. The storm water advisory committee must
18 also build upon the 2000 storm water advisory committee report to the
19 legislature, the independent science panel's review of the manual in
20 section 2 of this act, and the cost-benefit analysis required in
21 section 4 of this act; and

22 (h) Begin its work no later than July 1, 2002, and complete its
23 work by December 31, 2003.

24 (4) The department shall provide a progress report to the
25 legislature on storm water management issues and the approach to these
26 issues taken by the storm water advisory committee no later than
27 December 31, 2002.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 90.48 RCW
29 to read as follows:

30 (1) The department shall evaluate the costs and benefits of using
31 the storm water management manuals. The analysis must evaluate whether
32 the probable benefits of the best management practices in the storm
33 water manual exceed their probable costs in achieving compliance with
34 federal and state water quality requirements. This analysis shall take
35 into account both the qualitative and quantitative benefits and costs
36 of the best management practices.

37 (2) The department shall report its results for the storm water
38 manual for western Washington by December 31, 2002.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** While an integrated storm water management
2 process is being developed, the department of ecology and other
3 resource agencies are strongly encouraged to use flexibility in
4 conditioning permits dealing with storm water management.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
7 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
8 immediately.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act expires June 30, 2004.

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