
SENATE BILL 6672

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators McCaslin, Swecker and Fraser

Read first time 01/25/2002. Referred to Committee on Environment,
Energy & Water.

1 AN ACT Relating to effects of inorganic fluoride on the quality of
2 the waters of the state; adding a new section to chapter 90.48 RCW;
3 creating a new section; providing an expiration date; and declaring an
4 emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that fluoridation of
7 municipal drinking water is a significant source of inorganic fluoride
8 entering the waters of the state. This source has raised concerns
9 about the degradation of the state's water quality and may be a factor
10 related to the decline and endangerment of the salmonid population,
11 especially within the state's freshwater.

12 The legislature recognizes the actions taken by the government of
13 British Columbia, Canada, in establishing ambient water quality
14 criteria for fluoride in order to protect habitat for freshwater and
15 marine aquatic life. The legislature finds that the lack of a similar
16 Washington state assessment, and associated water quality standards,
17 may be harmful to the state's aquatic species.

1 The legislature intends that the department of ecology use the best
2 science available to review and assess the risks associated with the
3 discharge of inorganic fluoride into the waters of the state.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 90.48 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The department shall conduct a study of the effects of
7 inorganic fluoride on the quality of the waters of the state.

8 (2) In conducting the study, the department shall: (a) Include a
9 review of best available scientific literature regarding the effects of
10 inorganic fluoride in aquatic environments; (b) include an assessment
11 of the inorganic fluoride levels in the marine and freshwater, focused
12 on locations near communities that have fluoridation of their municipal
13 drinking water systems, and locations near known industrial or
14 commercial discharges of inorganic fluoride; (c) use the best available
15 science in determining the threshold effects of inorganic fluoride on
16 aquatic life, with a focus on the effects, in the migratory routes and
17 spawning areas, of salmonids that have been listed as threatened or
18 endangered by the federal government; and (d) include the consideration
19 of factors such as low-level stream flows, variations in water
20 temperature, and the hardness of the waters.

21 (3) The department shall include an opportunity for public comment
22 on its draft findings and recommendations. The opportunity for public
23 comment shall include at least two public hearings, with one occurring
24 on each side of the crest of the Cascade mountains. The period for
25 submitting written public comment shall remain open for at least ninety
26 days.

27 (4)(a) The department shall prepare a final report containing its
28 comprehensive findings and recommendations based upon its assessment.

29 (b) The final findings and recommendations shall include a summary
30 of the comments received, an analysis of the scientific basis of the
31 comments, and, if the comments are not incorporated into the
32 department's findings or recommendations, the reasons why the comments
33 were not included.

34 (c) The department shall submit its final report to the governor,
35 the salmon recovery office created under chapter 77.85 RCW, and the
36 legislature by December 15, 2003.

37 (5) This section expires December 31, 2003.

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

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