
SENATE BILL 6737

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senator Fraser

Read first time 01/30/2002. Referred to Committee on Environment,
Energy & Water.

1 AN ACT Relating to coordinating implementation of watershed plans;
2 adding new sections to chapter 90.54 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that each watershed in
5 Washington is unique and requires its own management activities and
6 techniques to protect and enhance the quality and stability of the
7 watershed for the benefit of communities and residents. Such
8 activities and techniques are most effective and efficient when they
9 fully integrate and utilize the collaborative efforts of interested
10 citizens and businesses, nonprofit organizations, tribes, agencies of
11 local, state, and federal government, and state colleges and
12 universities and coordinate the implementation of adopted watershed
13 plans. The skills, community support, volunteer labor, and donations
14 of goods and services that they generate substantially advance
15 protection, enhancement, and restoration of watersheds and natural
16 resources.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 90.54 RCW
18 to read as follows:

1 (1) Voluntary watershed organizations formed for the purpose of
2 implementing adopted watershed plans and coordinating their respective
3 activities with other state entities and affected local, regional,
4 tribal, federal government, and private nonprofit organizations are
5 eligible for grants under this section.

6 (2) Voluntary watershed organizations, including private nonprofit
7 organizations incorporated under Title 24 RCW, formed for the purpose
8 of implementing adopted watershed plans may apply to the department for
9 administrative support grants of up to fifty thousand dollars to
10 maintain the organizational structure and functions necessary to
11 fulfill their purpose.

12 (3) Administrative support grants may be used to compensate full or
13 part-time staff, such as a director, project manager, or volunteer
14 coordinator, and for obtaining grants and matching funds and in-kind
15 donations and services, for recruiting volunteers, for providing
16 technical and safety training, safety equipment, and insurance, and for
17 maintaining required records and issuing required reports, and the
18 like.

19 (4) Administrative support grants may be renewed annually.

20 (5) In addition to any other relevant requirements established by
21 the department, applications for administrative support grants shall
22 include a work plan for expenditure of the grant funds, a description
23 of the planned activities for which the grant funds will provide
24 administrative support, performance measures, and documentation of
25 community involvement.

26 (6) Preference will be given to organizations that have completed
27 projects successfully, have projects pending, and have established
28 cooperative relationships with citizens, businesses, nonprofit
29 organizations, tribes, agencies of local, state, and federal
30 government, and state colleges and universities, as appropriate for the
31 nature and scope of their activities.

32 (7) The department shall provide administrative support grants from
33 available grant funds administered by the department and any
34 appropriations made by the legislature to the department expressly for
35 this purpose.

36 (8) For purposes of this section, adopted watershed plans include
37 plans adopted under chapter 90.82 RCW, habitat conservation plans,
38 requirements of federal energy regulatory commission licenses, plans

1 adopted pursuant to Puget Sound water quality action grants, or
2 legislative directives.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 90.54 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 There is hereby created a state watershed coordinating council.
6 The purpose of the council is to provide information sharing and
7 coordination among local watershed organizations and state, federal,
8 and tribal entities.

9 The state watershed coordinating council shall consist of between
10 fifteen and twenty-five members. Approximately half of the members
11 shall represent local watershed organizations and be in proportion to
12 the various major categories of adopted watershed plans as contained in
13 section 2(8) of this act. The remaining members shall represent state,
14 federal, and tribal entities, and scientists with expertise in
15 watershed health.

16 The members of the state watershed coordinating council shall be
17 appointed by the governor, in consultation with the entities that are
18 to be represented.

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