

5909-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Water  
(originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Regala, Spanel and  
Thibaudeau)

Brief Description: Revising financial responsibility requirements  
for vessels.

**SB 5909-S - DIGEST**

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 2ND SUB)

Finds that the current financial responsibility laws for vessels and facilities are in need of update and revision. These changes are necessary due to the increased risks of spills, the length of time that has passed since the current standards were put in place, the recent changes that have occurred in federal statutory and case law, the comparative standards of other western states, and the recent experiences of other states with spills.

Encourages the department of ecology to work with the States/British Columbia oil spill task force, which was created by a memorandum of cooperation signed in 1989, to seek uniformity in the standards of financial responsibility for vessels and facilities.

Provides that, to assist the department in determining the proper levels of financial responsibility for onshore and offshore facilities, as required under RCW 88.40.025, the department shall contract for an independent economic analysis regarding adequate levels of financial responsibility. The analysis shall include consideration of the matters identified in RCW 88.40.025. The analysis shall be completed and delivered to the legislature and governor by September 1, 2002.

Declares that it is unlawful for any vessel required to have financial responsibility under chapter 88.40 RCW to enter or operate on Washington waters without meeting the requirements of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter, except when necessary to avoid injury to the vessel's crew or passengers.

Appropriates the sum of one hundred thirty-three thousand six hundred ninety-eight dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, from the state toxics control account to the department of ecology for the purposes of this act.

Appropriates the sum of three hundred thirty-five thousand six hundred eighty-six dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, from the state toxics control account to the department of ecology for the purposes of this act.