

6553

Sponsor(s): Senators Poulsen, Oke and Regala; by request of Governor Locke

Brief Description: Enhancing regulatory capabilities to prevent invasive aquatic species.

**SB 6553 - DIGEST**

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Recognizes the potential economic and environmental damage that can occur from the introduction of invasive aquatic species.

Declares that the purpose of this act is to increase public awareness of invasive aquatic species and enhance the department of fish and wildlife's regulatory capability to address threats posed by these species.

Requires the director to create a rapid response plan in cooperation with the aquatic nuisance species committee and its member agencies that describes actions to be taken when a prohibited aquatic animal species is found to be infesting a water body. These actions include eradication or control programs where feasible and containment of infestation where practical through notification, public education, and the enforcement of regulatory programs.

Provides that, in consultation with the aquatic nuisance species committee, the director of the department of fish and wildlife and the chief of the state patrol must jointly develop a plan to inspect watercraft entering the state to prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic species. The plan shall be provided to the legislature by December 2003.