
**Fisheries, Ecology & Parks
Committee**

HB 2605

Brief Description: Allowing outdoor burning in areas that are no longer designated a nonattainment area by the federal government.

Sponsors: Representatives Bush, Mielke, Boldt, Sump, Orcutt, Campbell, McMorris and Nixon.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Specifies that outdoor burning may be allowed in an area of the state that is not actively deemed a nonattainment area by the state or federal government, unless other provisions in state law require otherwise.

Hearing Date: 1/30/04

Staff: Jason Callahan (786-7117).

Background:

Outdoor burning, or the combustion of material in an open fire without providing for emissions control, is prohibited in many areas of the state. In particular, outdoor burning is prohibited in any area where the federal or state ambient air quality limits are exceeded for the pollutants associated with outdoor burning [RCW 70.94.743(1)(a)]. This prohibition includes restrictions on residential burning in areas that have had current and former designations for violating air quality standards for carbon monoxide, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and lead [WAC 173-425-040].

In addition, outdoor burning is prohibited within the urban growth boundary of any city with a population of greater than 5,000 residents, regardless of air current air quality, as well as any city located within or contiguous to any area that has been identified as having a history of poor air quality [RCW 70.94.743(1)(b)].

Beginning January 1, 2007, outdoor burning will be prohibited statewide [RCW 70.94.743(1)(b)].

Summary of Bill:

Outdoor burning may be allowed in an area of the state that is not actively deemed a nonattainment area by the state or federal government, unless other provisions in state law require otherwise. Outdoor burning is still prohibited in areas while they are under an active nonattainment designation.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.