
SENATE BILL 5289

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Oke and Fraser

Read first time 01/21/2003. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water.

1 AN ACT Relating to watershed health monitoring; adding a new
2 section to chapter 77.85 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

5 (a) The state's independent science panel made several
6 recommendations for improving the state's programs for monitoring
7 salmonid recovery in a December 2000 report to the governor and the
8 legislature;

9 (b) Acting upon this report and other recommendations, the 2001
10 legislature created the monitoring oversight committee to develop
11 recommendations for a comprehensive statewide strategy for monitoring
12 watershed health, with a focus upon salmon recovery;

13 (c) The 2001 legislation also directed the monitoring oversight
14 committee to prepare an action plan to achieve implementation of a
15 comprehensive strategy by 2007;

16 (d) The monitoring oversight committee has carried out this work
17 and delivered its report to the 2003 legislature, entitled *The*
18 *Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for*
19 *Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery*;

1 (e) The monitoring oversight committee surveyed current state
2 agency watershed health-related monitoring expenditures and found that
3 approximately sixty-eight million dollars are expended on a biennial
4 basis;

5 (f) The state's current budget crisis will severely constrain the
6 ability to make substantial progress in implementing some elements of
7 the action plan to achieve a comprehensive statewide monitoring
8 strategy, but that many elements of the action plan may be implemented
9 by changing priorities in some existing monitoring expenditures in
10 order to better achieve the greatest benefits for programs and
11 activities for protecting and restoring watershed health and fish
12 recovery, combined with allocating new resources to the key elements of
13 the action plan; and

14 (g) There is a need to continue the work of the monitoring
15 oversight committee and to assign responsibility for overall
16 coordination in implementation of the action plan.

17 (2) Therefore, it is the purpose of this act to adopt the
18 monitoring strategy and action plan referenced in subsection (1)(d) of
19 this section and to charge the salmon recovery funding board with the
20 ongoing responsibility to implement the strategy and action plan in
21 cooperation with state agencies with monitoring responsibilities.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.85 RCW
23 to read as follows:

24 (1) The salmon recovery funding board shall provide coordination
25 among and oversight of state agencies in the implementation of the
26 comprehensive statewide watershed health monitoring strategy and action
27 plan developed under the authority of chapter 298, Laws of 2001. The
28 salmon recovery funding board may periodically revise the strategy and
29 action plan to reflect changes in funding availability, monitoring
30 activities by state or nonstate agencies or entities, and other
31 considerations relevant to achieving a comprehensive strategy. In
32 implementing as well as revising the plan, the board shall periodically
33 consult broadly with watershed health monitoring agencies and entities.

34 (2) In carrying out its duties under this section, both the
35 appointed and ex officio members of the salmon recovery funding board
36 shall fully participate in board deliberations and decisions, including

1 the right to vote on any matter that the chair determines should be
2 decided by a vote of the board.

3 (3) The salmon recovery funding board shall allocate funds
4 appropriated by the legislature to the board for grants or other
5 distribution to state agencies or other entities for the purposes of
6 monitoring activities. In making such allocations, the board shall be
7 generally guided by the action plan in *The Washington Comprehensive*
8 *Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for Watershed Health and Salmon*
9 *Recovery*.

10 (4) In addition to funding decisions regarding funds appropriated
11 to the board, the board may make recommendations to state agencies for
12 carrying out monitoring activities consistent with the strategy and
13 action plan. Where the state agency declines to implement the
14 recommendation wholly or substantially, the director of the agency
15 shall explain such refusal in writing, including an identification of
16 the funding, legal, or other constraints upon the agency to fully
17 implement the recommendation.

18 (5) At the end of each even-numbered year, the salmon recovery
19 funding board shall report to the governor and the appropriate
20 committees of the senate and house of representatives on its activities
21 under this section and the progress of state agencies and other
22 entities in implementing the monitoring strategy and action plan.

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