
HOUSE BILL 1639

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Upthegrove, Dickerson, Moeller, Dunshee, Sells, B. Sullivan, Simpson, Lantz, Williams, O'Brien, Hunt and Chase

Read first time 01/31/2005. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to considering water quality when preparing and
2 reviewing growth management plans and regulations; adding a new section
3 to chapter 36.70A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that Washington's
6 marine waters are at significant risk.

7 (2) As one example the legislature recognizes Hood Canal is a
8 marine water of the state exhibiting water quality problems that create
9 significant environmental concerns. The legislature finds:

10 (a) Hood Canal has a dead zone related to low-dissolved oxygen
11 concentrations, a condition that has recurred for many years;

12 (b) The May 2004 *Preliminary Assessment and Corrective Action Plan*
13 published by the state Puget Sound action team and the Hood Canal
14 coordinating council clearly documents that the low-dissolved oxygen
15 concentrations in Hood Canal result from nitrogen loading in the water
16 and that failing onsite sewage systems and storm water runoff are the
17 largest nitrogen contributors in the Hood Canal dead zone; and

18 (c) The *Preliminary Assessment and Corrective Action Plan* includes
19 recommendations to address Hood Canal's problems, including education,

1 training, incentives, and requirements for protecting and restoring
2 buffers along Hood Canal streams and shorelines, and use of low-impact
3 development techniques.

4 (3) The legislature also finds the Hood Canal dead zone is not an
5 isolated problem. The legislature recognizes that the United States
6 commission on ocean policy's September 2004 report, *An Ocean Blueprint*
7 *for the 21st Century*, documents that these problems affect Washington's
8 sounds, coasts, and oceans. The legislature also recognizes this
9 report documents that adverse coastal impacts occur not only from uses
10 of coastal areas but also from uses occurring a considerable distance
11 from the ocean. The legislature further recognizes this report
12 includes recommendations regarding clear goals for marine areas, better
13 coordination, clarification of laws, adaptive management, and improved
14 coastal and ocean resources protection.

15 (4) The legislature finds that, while substantial progress has been
16 made in protecting Washington's environment, more is now known about
17 the significant effects of development along the state's shorelines.
18 The legislature intends to provide the tools necessary to address the
19 evolving understanding of measures needed to maintain and, when
20 required, enhance water quality for Washington's marine shorelines
21 while accommodating appropriate development consistent with city and
22 county comprehensive plans.

23 (5) The legislature recognizes the state's growth management act
24 includes a goal and general requirements to protect water quality as
25 well as the state's surface and ground waters, including Puget Sound.
26 The legislature also recognizes these provisions are codified at RCW
27 36.70A.020(10), 36.70A.030(14)(g), and 36.70A.070 (1) and (5)(c)(iv).
28 The legislature further recognizes the growth management act defines
29 this goal and these requirements and gives additional guidance for
30 local governments and the public while allowing for local choices and
31 solutions. The legislature finds the approach taken in the growth
32 management act will protect our marine waters and assist counties,
33 cities, and the public. The legislature therefore intends that the
34 provisions of this act be implemented by counties and cities according
35 to the schedule specified in RCW 36.70A.130.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A RCW
37 to read as follows:

1 (1) Cities and counties shall consider the following when preparing
2 comprehensive plans and development regulations according to this
3 chapter and when reviewing comprehensive plans and development
4 regulations according to RCW 36.70A.130:

5 (a) Measures to maintain or improve water quality and habitat.
6 These measures may include but are not limited to provisions of plans
7 and programs adopted according to chapters 77.85, 89.08, 90.48, 90.54,
8 90.56, 90.58, 90.64, 90.71, 90.72, 90.74, 90.76, 90.82, and 90.84 RCW;

9 (b) Effects of proposed land use patterns on basic hydrologic
10 functions and on surface and ground water quality, including downstream
11 water bodies;

12 (c) Land use measures to maintain and, when required, enhance
13 existing hydrologic functions, considering the entire river or stream
14 basin, and to maintain surface and ground water quality, surface water
15 quantity, and ground waters used for potable water or irrigation; and

16 (d) Measures to maintain and, when required, enhance existing
17 hydrologic functions, including consideration of predevelopment peak
18 flows and summer and fall surface and ground water flows.

19 (2) When designating and protecting critical areas according to
20 this chapter, counties and cities shall consider measures to maintain
21 water quality at a level allowing water bodies to support desirable and
22 feasible existing and future uses.

23 (3) Counties and cities may not designate urban growth areas on
24 marine shorelines not already occupied by urban growth unless the
25 designation is necessary for water-dependent or water-related uses.

26 (4) Counties and cities shall implement the requirements of this
27 section according to the schedule specified in RCW 36.70A.130.

28 (5) The requirements of this section apply to counties whose
29 territory includes Hood Canal, Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca,
30 or the Pacific Ocean and to the cities and towns in those counties.

31 (6) Nothing in this section is intended to affect the requirements
32 or provisions of the state's water pollution control laws, chapter
33 90.48 RCW, or the federal clean water act, 33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251 et seq.

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