

HOUSE BILL REPORT

2SHB 1656

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to establishing a Puget Sound scientific research account.

Brief Description: Establishing the Puget Sound scientific research account.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Rolfes, Upthegrove, B. Sullivan, Appleton, Chase, Santos, Dickerson and Sells).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Select Committee on Puget Sound: 1/31/07, 2/20/07 [DPS];
Appropriations: 3/3/07 [DP2S(w/o sub PUGT)].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/10/07, 97-0.
Senate Amended.
Passed Senate: 4/12/07, 45-1.
House Concurred.
Passed House: 4/17/07, 98-0.
Passed Legislature.

Brief Summary of Second Substitute Bill

- Creates an account to fund scientific research programs and projects that address scientific research gaps regarding protection and restoration of Puget Sound and the Aquatic Rehabilitation Zone One.
- Tasks the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council to administer the account.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUGET SOUND

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives Upthegrove, Chair; Eickmeyer, Vice Chair; Rolfes, Vice Chair; Sump, Ranking Minority Member; Walsh, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; O'Brien, Pearson and Springer.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Staff: Karen Rogers (786-7388).

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Majority Report: The second substitute bill be substituted therefor and the second substitute bill do pass and do not pass the substitute bill by Committee on Select Committee on Puget Sound. Signed by 34 members: Representatives Sommers, Chair; Dunshee, Vice Chair; Alexander, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Haler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Anderson, Buri, Chandler, Cody, Conway, Darneille, Dunn, Ericks, Fromhold, Grant, Haigh, Hinkle, Hunt, Hunter, Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Kretz, Linville, McDermott, McDonald, McIntire, Morrell, Pettigrew, Priest, Schual-Berke, Seaquist, P. Sullivan and Walsh.

Staff: Alicia Dunkin (786-7178).

Background:

Puget Sound is a 2,800-square-mile inland water connected to the Pacific Ocean via the Strait of Juan de Fuca in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. It extends from Admiralty Inlet in the north, to Olympia, Washington, in the south. It includes: open marine waters; inland marine waters; Hood Canal, a glacially scoured fjord; numerous river and stream channels; and 2,500 miles of shoreline.

Aquatic Rehabilitation Zone One (ARZ-1) is an area within Jefferson, Kitsap, and Mason Counties. The ARZ-1 includes watersheds that drain into Hood Canal from south of the line projected from Tala Point in Jefferson County, to Foulweather Bluff in Kitsap County.

The Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) is a new state agency that succeeds the Puget Sound Action Team upon the adoption of independent legislation by the 2007 Legislature. The Partnership's task is to restore the Puget Sound by the year 2020, and is led by a Governor-appointed Leadership Council. The Leadership Council sets the agency's policies, controls its budget, and has responsibility of its performance. The Partnership also has a Puget Sound Science Panel (Science Panel), which advises and assists the Leadership Council on science decisions and matters.

Summary of Second Substitute Bill:

An account is created to fund scientific research programs and projects that address scientific research gaps regarding protection and restoration of Puget Sound and the ARZ-1. The Leadership Council, with assistance from the Science Panel, identifies and prioritizes the gaps, and funds programs and projects accordingly.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: No impact.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: (Select Committee on Puget Sound)

(In support) The bill clearly specifies an entity that is responsible for identifying where science gaps exist, and sets up a process, or mechanism, to address those gaps in an organized manner. Focusing on needed scientific information is a good idea, and acquiring such information will help inform public policy.

(With concerns) The bill is supported; however, language should be adjusted to clearly specify who controls the account, that the priorities are strategically made, and what subjects are researched.

(Opposed) None.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: (Appropriations)

None.

Persons Testifying: (Select Committee on Puget Sound) (In support) Representative Rolfes, prime sponsor; Jerry Smedes, Northwest Environmental Business Council; and Bill Dewey, Taylor Shellfish Company.

(With concerns) Naki Stevens, People for Puget Sound.

Persons Testifying: (Appropriations) None.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: (Select Committee on Puget Sound) None.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: (Appropriations) None.