
Select Committee on Puget Sound

HB 2248

Brief Description: Creating the Maury Island aquatic reserve.

Sponsors: Representatives McDermott, Cody, Upthegrove and Williams.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates an aquatic reserve around Maury Island and Quartermaster Harbor.
- Prohibits the authorization of industrial uses and material transport from mining or industrial activities within the Maury Island aquatic reserve.

Hearing Date: 2/20/07

Staff: Karen Rogers (786-7388).

Background:

Maury Island is a small island located in southwestern King County and within the Puget Sound. It is connected to Vashon Island by an isthmus, and is primarily rural with large tracts of farmland and forest, with some residential development, gravel mining, and undeveloped shoreline.

State-owned aquatic lands include all tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, the beds of navigable waters, and waterways owned by the state, except for aquatic lands owned in fee. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages state-owned aquatic lands. Management may include identifying and withdrawing public lands from conflicting uses for the benefit of the public. Benefits include environmental observation, study, enjoyment, and other ecological utilization.

Summary of Bill:

The Maury Island aquatic reserve is created, and encompasses state-owned tidelands and bedlands around Maury Island and Quartermaster Harbor. The DNR administers the reserve, and develops a management plan to conserve native habitats; to protect and restore nearshore ecological

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functions and processes; to promote stewardship of riparian and aquatic habitats; and to provide for low-impact public uses.

The management plan identifies significant resources for conservation, as well as areas with potential for low-impact public uses. The plan also allows for specified, permitted management activities and public uses, except for industrial uses or transport of materials from mining or other industrial activities, which the DNR is prohibited from authorizing. The DNR also may not authorize the construction of docks or other improvements associated with the above-mentioned prohibited uses and activities.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 19, 2007.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.