
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

SSB 6607

Brief Description: Regarding shellfish protection district wastewater discharge fees, rates, and charges.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications (originally sponsored by Senators Spanel, Haugen and Rasmussen).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Removes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit exemption for shellfish protection district assessments, fees, and charges and limits the assessments that may be levied against dairies with certified dairy nutrient management plans to \$500.

Hearing Date: February 25, 2008

Staff: Colleen Kerr (786-7168).

Background:

County legislative authorities may create a shellfish protection district and adopt shellfish protection programs to address water quality issues affecting growing and harvesting shellfish. Counties must coordinate and cooperate with cities, towns, and water-related special districts within their boundaries in establishing shellfish protection districts and carrying out shellfish protection programs. Counties must also consult with the departments of Health, Ecology, Agriculture, or the Conservation Commission about the elements of the shellfish protection program. Twelve districts exist to date, and eight have resulted in classification upgrades and re-openings.

Counties may finance a shellfish protection program through county tax revenues, inspection fees and other fees for provided services, rates specified in the protection program, or with federal, state, or private grants. Fees, rates or charges must not be imposed by districts based on the following: (1) confined animal feeding operations subject to the National Pollutant Discharge

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Elimination System (NPDES); (2) other facilities permitted and assessed fees under the NPDES; and (3) timberlands classified under state timber and open space tax laws.

All dairy animal feeding operations are required to adopt a dairy nutrient management plan to assure the dairy does not discharge into state waters. These plans must be approved and certified by the local conservation district.

Summary of Bill:

County shellfish protection district activities should focus on actions targeting shellfish protection. The NPDES permit exemption for shellfish protection district assessments, fees, and charges is removed from statute. The assessments that may be levied against dairies with certified dairy nutrient management plans is limited to \$500.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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