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SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1656

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

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

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/07.

1            AN ACT Relating to establishing a Puget Sound scientific research  
2 account; adding a new section to chapter 90.71 RCW; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** Although research about the conditions in  
6 Puget Sound have been studied during the past several decades, the  
7 legislature finds that there is no coordinated, focused, comprehensive  
8 Puget Sound science program capable of setting research priorities for  
9 Puget Sound science. The legislature finds that environmental problems  
10 in Puget Sound are complex and research is needed to provide  
11 information that can guide protective and restorative actions, and to  
12 explore and understand the impacts of a changing environment. The  
13 legislature also finds that there is no predictable funding process for  
14 Puget Sound research projects, including the aquatic rehabilitation  
15 zone one. The legislature declares that the state needs a process to  
16 focus the scientific effort on the Puget Sound ecosystem and to  
17 distribute research funds.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 90.71 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        (1) The action team or its successor agency shall:

4        (a) Identify gaps in science related to:  
5        (i) The restoration of the aquatic rehabilitation zone one, created  
6 in RCW 90.88.010;

7        (ii) Puget Sound environmental protection; and  
8        (iii) Puget Sound environmental restoration;

9        (b) Formulate a research plan that narrows key science research  
10 gaps identified in (a) of this subsection;

11        (c) Develop a competitive process for soliciting research on Puget  
12 Sound and on the aquatic rehabilitation zone one;

13        (d) Solicit and strategically prioritize research programs and  
14 projects in accordance with (b) and (c) of this subsection.  
15 Prioritization shall be determined by criteria that result in the  
16 greatest preservation or restoration progress;

17        (e) Select and fund the highest priority research programs and  
18 projects identified under (d) of this subsection; and

19        (f) Develop and implement an appropriate peer review process to  
20 review results from the research programs and projects selected and  
21 funded under (e) of this subsection.

22        (2) The Puget Sound scientific research account is created in the  
23 state treasury. All gifts, grants, federal moneys, or appropriations  
24 made to the account must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the  
25 account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the  
26 account may be used only for research programs and projects for the  
27 purposes of subsection (1) of this section.

28        (3) The action team or its successor agency is subject to the open  
29 public meetings act, chapter 42.30 RCW.

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