
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2049

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Select Committee on Puget Sound (originally sponsored by Representatives Rolfes, Strow, Appleton, Hunt, Springer, McDermott, VanDeWege, Seaquist, McCoy, Eickmeyer and Lantz)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to Puget Sound marine resource committees; adding
2 new sections to chapter 90.71 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds the challenge of
5 developing realistic, effective, and efficient solutions to the
6 conservation and management issues facing Puget Sound requires calling
7 on all available sources of knowledge and creative thinking available
8 in the collective wisdom of Washington's citizens. The legislature
9 further finds that Puget Sound is both a dynamic and localized
10 waterbody with unique local challenges and unique local solutions. As
11 such, it is essential for the future management of Puget Sound that
12 citizens, through their local government, have a voice and an
13 opportunity to share their dedication and interest in the well-being of
14 their community's unique marine waters, while providing a valuable
15 contribution to the statewide efforts aimed at restoring the Puget
16 Sound as a whole.

17 (2) The legislature further finds that federally led efforts to
18 establish marine resource committees have proven to be an exciting
19 vehicle for involving local citizens and community leaders in the

1 future discussions, decisions, and restoration commitments in the
2 waters most important to the community. The existing model of using a
3 community-based, nonregulatory organization to examine issues
4 particular to a community's corner of Puget Sound, applying for grants,
5 and thoroughly and fairly investigating available options and solutions
6 has proved to be a valuable asset to Puget Sound and its communities,
7 and is worthy of replication throughout the Puget Sound basin.

8 (3) In this act, the legislature intends to establish a structure
9 on which interested local communities can harness the dedication,
10 creativity, and wisdom of their residents in the form of marine
11 resource committees. These committees are intended to compliment, and
12 not compete with or undermine, any other governmental efforts to
13 restore and manage the Puget Sound.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The legislative authority for each
15 county that borders the marine waters of Puget Sound is authorized to
16 establish marine resource committees consistent with the procedures
17 outlined in section 3 of this act.

18 (2) The mission of a marine resource committee created under this
19 section is to address, utilizing sound science, the needs of the marine
20 ecosystem local to the county initiating the marine resource committee.

21 (3) A marine resource committee created under this section should
22 review current data and resource conservation and management programs
23 and make prioritized recommendations for additional measures that might
24 be necessary to enhance protection of marine resources.

25 (4) The role of a marine resource committee in developing
26 recommendations includes, but is not limited to:

27 (a) Utilizing existing data and, to the extent necessary, helping
28 to gather new data on the health of local marine resources;

29 (b) Making scientifically based recommendations on local candidate
30 sites for marine protected areas;

31 (c) Working closely with local and state officials to help
32 implement recommendations of the marine resource committee;

33 (d) Promoting public outreach and education around marine resource
34 conservation and management issues; and

35 (e) Engaging in any other activities that the initiating county
36 deems appropriate.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) A marine resource committee, as
2 described in section 2 of this act, may be created by the legislative
3 authority of any county bordering the marine waters of Puget Sound, in
4 cooperation with all appropriate cities and special districts within
5 their boundaries. Adjacent county legislative authorities are
6 encouraged to coordinate their efforts whenever there is a mutual
7 interest in creating a marine resource committee.

8 (2) A county may delegate the management and oversight of a marine
9 resource committee created by it under section 2 of this act to a city,
10 or cities, within its jurisdiction, if the city or cities are located
11 on the marine waters of Puget Sound and are willing to accept the
12 delegation. A county may create multiple marine resource committees,
13 and delegate the responsibilities of the different marine resource
14 committees to different cities, if more than one city within a county
15 is located on the marine waters of Puget Sound, and the marine waters
16 adjacent to the cities are judged by the county to be sufficiently
17 distinct.

18 (3) Participating county legislative authorities must select
19 members of the marine resource committee, ensuring balanced
20 representation from: Local government; scientific experts; effected
21 economic interests; effected recreational interests; and environmental
22 and conservation interests. An initiating county may delegate its
23 appointment authority to a city or cities that have received from the
24 county the delegated responsibilities of managing and overseeing the
25 marine resource committee.

26 (4) County residents may petition the county legislative authority
27 to create a marine resource committee. Upon receipt of a petition, the
28 county legislative authority must respond in writing within sixty days
29 as to whether they will authorize the creation of a marine resource
30 committee as well as the reasons for their decision.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The action team, or its successor
32 organization, shall serve as the regional coordinating entity for
33 marine resource committees created under section 2 of this act.

34 (2) The regional coordinating entity shall serve as a resource to,
35 at a minimum:

36 (a) Coordinate and pool grant applications and other funding
37 requests for marine resource committees;

1 (b) Coordinate communications and information among marine resource
2 committees;

3 (c) Assist marine resource committees to measure themselves against
4 regional performance benchmarks;

5 (d) Assist marine resource committees with coordinating local
6 projects to compliment regional priorities; and

7 (e) Assist marine resource committees to interact with and
8 compliment other marine resource committees, and other similar groups,
9 constituted under a different authority.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Nothing in section 2 or 3 of this act is
11 intended to expand or limit the authority of local marine resource
12 committees existing as of the effective date of this section.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each
14 added to chapter 90.71 RCW.

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