
HOUSE BILL 2948

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Eddy, McCoy, Springer, Goodman, Simpson, Sequist, and Roach

Read first time 01/19/10. Referred to Committee on Local Government & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a study to evaluate public regional and
2 interlocal water and sewer systems in Washington state; creating new
3 sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that in some areas of
6 the state, the regional cooperative provision of certain water and
7 sewer services would create efficiencies, reduce consumer rates,
8 conserve water and energy, and cause the construction of more
9 environmentally friendly infrastructure. It is the intent of the
10 legislature to research the value of creating a statutory structure in
11 Washington state that would encourage the formation of additional
12 regional water and sewer systems.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) For the purposes of this act, a
14 "regional water and sewer system" means any public or publicly created
15 regional or intergovernmental entity that provides water or sewer
16 services to two or more local governments.

17 (2) The governor shall convene a study group to evaluate regional
18 water and sewer systems in Washington state and to determine what

1 statutory changes are necessary to encourage the establishment and
2 operation of regional water and sewer systems. The study group
3 consists of the following members:

4 (a) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate,
5 appointed by the president of the senate;

6 (b) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house
7 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
8 representatives;

9 (c) One representative from a public regional water system that was
10 formed as a watershed management partnership under RCW 39.34.200 and
11 39.34.210;

12 (d) One representative from a regional sewer system that consists
13 of at least three cities and one county;

14 (e) One representative from the Washington association of sewer and
15 water districts; and

16 (f) Two members appointed by the governor having extensive legal
17 and policy experience with both local government and water/sewer
18 issues.

19 (3) At a minimum, the study group shall research, review, and make
20 recommendations on the following:

21 (a) Identify all existing and developing regional water and sewer
22 systems, and identify all known groups of local governments that are
23 considering developing regional water and sewer systems;

24 (b) For each of the groups identified under (a) of this subsection,
25 the study group shall outline its history, objectives for forming,
26 organizational structure, legal basis for formation and operation, and
27 potential problems or challenges with respect to formation and
28 operation under the current law;

29 (c) Review the laws, policies, and outcomes related to regional
30 water and sewer systems in at least two states that are known to have
31 successful operating regional water and sewer systems;

32 (d) Evaluate and describe what potential benefits might be obtained
33 by encouraging the formation of additional regional water and sewer
34 systems in Washington state. At a minimum, the study should consider
35 potential operational efficiencies and cost and rate reductions;

36 (e) Identify Washington state statutes that may discourage the
37 formation and operation of successful regional water and sewer systems,

1 and make recommendations on changes to the statutes that would
2 encourage the formation and successful operation of additional regional
3 water and sewer systems in the state.

4 (4) The study group shall compile its findings and recommendations
5 into a final report and provide its report to the legislature and
6 governor by December 1, 2010.

7 (5) The study group shall function within existing resources and no
8 specific budget may be provided to complete the study. The
9 participants of the study group are encouraged to donate their time and
10 their entities' staff resources to offset any costs.

11 (6) This section expires July 1, 2011.

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