
SENATE BILL 5948

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, Kastama, Jacobsen, Franklin, Berkey, and Hargrove

Read first time 02/09/09. Referred to Committee on Environment, Water & Energy.

1 AN ACT Relating to water conservation appliances; adding a new
2 section to chapter 19.27 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 that:

5 (a) Water is vital to the survival of life on the planet and is
6 limited in supply. Communities across the state are starting to face
7 challenges regarding water supply and water infrastructure. One way to
8 help extend Washington's water supply is by promoting water efficiency
9 and enhancing the market for water efficient products, programs, and
10 practices;

11 (b) Bathrooms are, by far, the largest user of water in the home,
12 responsible for about one-half of total indoor water use;

13 (c) Toilets account for approximately thirty percent of residential
14 indoor water consumption. Toilets are a major source of wasted water
15 due to leaks or inefficiency. Under federal and state law, toilets
16 sold in the United States must not exceed 1.6 gallons per flush. High
17 efficiency toilets go beyond the standard and use less than 1.3 gallons
18 per flush. Power assist and pressure assist toilets use even less
19 water, some even less than one gallon of water per flush. If every

1 home in the United States replaced old toilets with new high efficiency
2 toilets, the savings would be more than nine hundred billion gallons of
3 water a year;

4 (d) Bathroom faucets account for more than fifteen percent of
5 indoor household water use, more than one trillion gallons of water in
6 the United States. High efficiency bathroom sink faucets and
7 accessories such as aerators can reduce the standard flow of a bathroom
8 faucet by more than thirty percent without sacrificing performance. By
9 installing a high efficiency bathroom sink faucet, an average household
10 will save more than five hundred gallons of water each year;

11 (e) Showering is one of the top uses of residential water in the
12 United States, representing approximately seventeen percent of indoor
13 water use--more than 1.2 trillion gallons of water each year. A full
14 bath tub requires about seventy gallons of water, while taking a five-
15 minute shower uses ten to twenty-five gallons; and

16 (f) Besides saving water and reducing a customer's costs, water
17 efficiency offers many other benefits:

18 (i) Less water withdrawn from rivers, lakes, and aquifers, which
19 keeps these water bodies healthy;

20 (ii) Improved water quality due to increased river flows;

21 (iii) Less energy required to pump and treat the water, therefore
22 less greenhouse gas emissions;

23 (iv) Less wastewater that requires collection, treatment, and
24 disposal; and

25 (v) Less pollution from treated wastewater in our streams and
26 waterways.

27 (2) It is therefore the intent of the legislature to encourage
28 water efficiency by requiring the building code council to set a policy
29 regarding high efficiency toilets.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 19.27 RCW
31 to read as follows:

32 (1) By January 1, 2014, all toilets, other than institutional
33 toilets, sold or installed in this state must be high efficiency
34 toilets.

35 (2) By January 1, 2014, all urinals, other than institutional
36 urinals, sold or installed in this state must be high efficiency
37 urinals.

1 (3) Each manufacturer of toilets and urinals that sells toilets or
2 urinals in this state must offer for sale in this state a minimum
3 percentage of high efficiency toilets and high efficiency urinals, as
4 required by (a) through (e) of this subsection. The minimum required
5 percentage in (a) through (e) of this subsection is compared to the
6 total number of models of toilets and urinals offered for sale in this
7 state by that manufacturer:

8 (a) A minimum of fifty percent in 2010;

9 (b) A minimum of sixty-seven percent in 2011;

10 (c) A minimum of seventy-five percent in 2012;

11 (d) A minimum of eighty-five percent in 2013; and

12 (e) One hundred percent in 2014 and thereafter.

13 (4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
14 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

15 (a) "High efficiency toilet" means a toilet that is either of the
16 following:

17 (i) A dual flush toilet with an effective flush volume that does
18 not exceed 1.28 gallons, where effective flush volume is defined as the
19 composite, average flush volume of two reduced flushes and one full
20 flush; or

21 (ii) A single flush toilet where the effective flush volume may not
22 exceed 1.28 gallons.

23 (b) "High efficiency urinal" means a urinal that uses no more than
24 0.5 gallons per flush.

25 (c) "Institutional toilet" means any toilet fixture with a design
26 not typically found in residential or commercial applications or that
27 is designed for a specialized application, including, but not limited
28 to, wall-mounted wall outlet toilets, toilets used in jails or prisons,
29 toilets used in bariatrics applications, and child toilets used in day
30 care facilities.

31 (d) "Urinal" means a water using urinal.

32 (e) "Wall-mounted wall outlet toilets" means models that are
33 mounted on the wall and discharge to the drainage system through the
34 wall.

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