

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5192

As of February 6, 2011

Title: An act relating to provisions for notifications and appeals timelines under the shoreline management act.

Brief Description: Concerning provisions for notifications and appeals timelines under the shoreline management act.

Sponsors: Senators Nelson, Swecker and Chase; by request of Department of Ecology.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections: 2/03/11.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, TRIBAL RELATIONS & ELECTIONS

Staff: Karen Epps (786-7424)

Background: The Shoreline Management Act (SMA), enacted in 1971:

- governs uses of state shorelines;
- includes specific legislative findings that pressures on shoreline uses and the impacts of unrestricted development on public and private shoreline property create the need to coordinate planning for shoreline development activities; and
- finds these pressures create the need to protect private property rights consistent with the public interest.

SMA involves a cooperative regulatory approach between local governments and the state. At the local level, SMA regulations are developed in local shoreline master programs (master programs). All counties and cities with shorelines of the state are required to adopt master programs which regulate land use activities in shoreline areas of the state. Counties and cities are also required to enforce master programs within their jurisdictions.

The Shorelines Hearings Board (SHB) hears appeals from shoreline substantial development, conditional use, and variance permit decisions, and from those shoreline penalties jointly issued by local government and the Department of Ecology (Ecology), or issued by Ecology alone.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill: A master program takes effect as of the date of Ecology's written notice of final action to the local government. Ecology must publish notice that a master program has been approved or disapproved. Ecology's final decision to approve or reject a master program may be appealed to the Growth Management Hearings Board by filing a petition within 60 days as provided in the Growth Management Act.

Permit decisions may be appealed within 21 days of the date of filing (the date of actual receipt by Ecology of the local government's decision). Substantial development, conditional use, and variance permit decisions may be appealed within 21 days of the date of filing (the date Ecology's decision is transmitted to the local government).

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill is correcting some problems that were created inadvertently last year. It is very important to get the appeal period correct under the SMA. It is not important only in those rare instances where an appeal is filed; the SMA bars a permittee from moving ahead with their project until the appeal period runs. Currently, it is not clear for the applicant when the appeal period starts and ends. It is important to know when the appeal period starts ticking.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Nelson, prime sponsor; Tom Clingman, Department of Ecology; Josh Weiss, Washington Association of Counties.