
HOUSE BILL 1112

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Short, Upthegrove, Springer, Pollet, Taylor, Zeiger, and Wilcox

Read first time 01/16/13. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to standards for the use of science to support
2 public policy; adding a new section to chapter 34.05 RCW; and creating
3 a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that it is
6 critically important that scientific information used to inform public
7 policy be of the highest quality and integrity. Furthermore, the
8 legislature recognizes that a public benefit is derived from greater
9 transparency as to what scientific information, data, or records are
10 being used to inform public policy or relied upon in agency decision
11 making.

12 (2) Therefore, in order to help ensure that agencies routinely use
13 scientifically credible information in conducting their policy-making
14 functions, it is the intent of the legislature to have those sources of
15 scientific information reviewed and relied upon by agencies be
16 identified in a clear and transparent way.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 34.05 RCW
18 to read as follows:

1 (1) Before taking a significant agency action, the department of
2 fish and wildlife must identify the sources of information reviewed and
3 relied upon by the agency in the course of preparing to take
4 significant agency action. Peer-reviewed literature, if applicable,
5 must be identified, as well as any scientific literature or other
6 sources of information used. The department of fish and wildlife shall
7 make available on the agency's web site the index of records required
8 under RCW 42.56.070(6) that are relied upon, or invoked, in support of
9 a proposal for significant agency action.

10 (2)(a) For the purposes of this section, "significant agency
11 action" means an act of the department of fish and wildlife that:

12 (i) Results in the development of a significant legislative rule as
13 defined in RCW 34.05.328;

14 (ii) Results in the development of technical guidance, technical
15 assessments, or technical documents that are used to directly support
16 implementation of a state rule or state statute; or

17 (iii) Results in the development of fish and wildlife recovery
18 plans.

19 (b) "Significant agency action" does not include rule making by the
20 department of fish and wildlife associated with fishing and hunting
21 rules.

22 (3) This section is not intended to affect agency action regarding
23 individual permitting, compliance and enforcement decisions, or
24 guidance provided by an agency to a local government on a case-by-case
25 basis.

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