
SENATE BILL 6027

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senator O'Ban

Read first time 01/14/14. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to streamlining hydraulic project approval for
2 sediment removal by citizen volunteers; adding a new section to chapter
3 77.55 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that sediment removal
6 from streams, ponds, wetlands, and lakes is of paramount importance in
7 order to restore salmon habitat in streams that have been degraded by
8 urban development and surface water runoff. Due to the economic
9 downturn, state agencies and local governments have limited resources
10 to accomplish such restoration work. Citizen volunteers can be
11 effectively utilized using portable gas-powered mini-suction dredges
12 that are specifically designed to remove sediment with minimum water
13 quality disturbance. Currently, there are regulatory impediments to
14 volunteer organizations undertaking this restoration work. It is the
15 legislature's intent to create a pamphlet hydraulic project approval
16 permit that allows citizen volunteers to remove these nutrient rich
17 sediments without having to undertake a burdensome regulatory
18 permitting process.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.55 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) Any activity conducted solely for the removal of accumulated
4 organic and nutrient laden sediment from fresh waters of the state,
5 including through the use of small gas-powered portable dredges, does
6 not require a permit under this chapter if the activity is conducted in
7 accordance with rules established by the department.

8 (2) By December 31, 2014, the department shall adopt rules
9 applicable to sediment removal subject to this section.

10 (3) Following the adoption of the rules required under subsection
11 (2) of this section, the department shall produce and distribute a
12 pamphlet describing the activities approved under the rules. The
13 pamphlet serves as the permit for any project that is conducted solely
14 for the purposes of removing accumulated organic and nutrient laden
15 sediment from fresh waters of the state.

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