
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6516

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Honeyford, Keiser, Ericksen, Braun, and Chase)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a joint legislative task force to study
2 financing options for water supply, flood control, and storm water
3 projects; amending RCW 43.155.050; creating a new section; making
4 appropriations; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that probable
7 changes in climate and cycles of drought and storms, population growth
8 and required development, coupled with aging and inadequate water
9 supply and storm water and flood control infrastructure present
10 significant risks to the health and safety of our residents and
11 visitors, the sustained growth of our economy, and preservation and
12 protection of our natural resources.

13 (2) A joint legislative task force on financing options for water
14 supply and integrated water management, flood control, and storm water
15 projects is established. The task force and its various work groups
16 must review:

17 (a) The risks from inadequate water supply, flood control, and
18 storm water systems in various communities and water basins of the
19 state;

1 (b) The advances in water supply development and integrated water
2 management, flood control and storm water technology, engineering, and
3 ecosystem management that offer reliable, affordable, and long-lasting
4 benefits to the health and safety of residents, the sustainability of
5 regional and state economic growth, and the protection and preservation
6 of the state's natural resources;

7 (c) Financing options for water supply development and integrated
8 water management, flood control, and storm water projects that offer
9 reliable, affordable, and long-lasting benefits to the health and
10 safety of residents, the sustainability of regional and state economic
11 growth, and the protection and preservation of the state's natural
12 resources. Financing options must identify options for incurring debt
13 at the lowest cost, and possible state and local revenues necessary to
14 service that debt without diverting state general funds;

15 (d) Governance options for setting priorities for financing water
16 supply development and integrated water management, flood control, and
17 storm water projects and establishing state and local policies to
18 ensure that the benefits from such projects:

19 (i) Are not eroded by a failure to adequately maintain such
20 projects; or

21 (ii) Diminished by local decisions that exacerbate risks the
22 project is intended to mitigate.

23 (3)(a) The joint legislative task force on financing options for
24 water supply development and integrated water management, flood
25 control, and storm water projects shall consist of four members of the
26 house of representatives, including one member from each of the two
27 largest caucuses from the capital budget committee and the appropriate
28 policy committees, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of
29 representatives, and four members of the senate, including one member
30 from each of the two largest caucuses from the appropriate policy
31 committees and the capital budget chair of the ways and means committee
32 and ranking member for capital budget, to be appointed by the president
33 of the senate.

34 (b) The governor or the governor's representative may serve on the
35 task force. The governor must select four task force members
36 representing local governments, with two members representing
37 communities at risk from scarce water supplies and two representing
38 communities at risk from flooding and storm water control problems from

1 nominations received from the association of Washington cities and
2 Washington state association of counties. The governor must also
3 select two tribal representatives, one representing an area at risk of
4 inadequate water supplies and one representing an area at risk of
5 flooding from nominations from the governor's office of Indian affairs.

6 (c) The office of the state treasurer, the office of financial
7 management, the departments of ecology, health, agriculture, fish and
8 wildlife, and commerce shall cooperate with the task force and provide
9 leadership and staff support to the various work groups established
10 under subsection (4) of this section.

11 (d) The task force shall coordinate with the appropriate standing
12 committees of the legislature and may consult with other interested
13 parties, as may be appropriate, for technical advice and assistance.

14 (e) The task force shall select a chair from among its legislative
15 membership.

16 (4) The task force must establish expert work groups to
17 investigate, at a minimum, each of the topics in subsection (2)(a),
18 (b), (c), and (d) of this section. Work group members may be selected
19 for their relevant expertise from state, local, and tribal government
20 agencies, state universities, and knowledgeable private sector
21 professionals including representatives of the agricultural and
22 environmental committees. Staff support for the task force must be
23 provided by the house of representatives office of program research and
24 the senate committee services. Staff support for the various work
25 groups must be provided by the involved state agencies.

26 (5) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for
27 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
28 members of the task force or work groups, except those representing
29 state or local government agencies, are entitled to be reimbursed for
30 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.
31 Members of the task force or work groups representing state or local
32 government agencies may be entitled to be reimbursed for travel
33 expenses from their employer under their employers' travel policies.

34 (6) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the
35 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
36 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
37 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their
38 successor committees. The budget and expenses of the various work

1 groups established under subsection (4) of this section must be managed
2 by the office of financial management in consultation with the task
3 force.

4 (7) The task force must report its initial findings and
5 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the
6 legislature by December 1, 2014. A final report of the task force must
7 be submitted by September 1, 2015.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of eight hundred thousand dollars,
9 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
10 biennium ending June 30, 2015, from the public works assistance account
11 to the office of financial management for the purposes of this act.
12 The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be
13 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal biennium ending June 30,
14 2015, from the public works assistance account to the house of
15 representatives for the purposes of this act. The sum of one hundred
16 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
17 appropriated for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2015, from the
18 public works assistance account to the senate for the purposes of this
19 act.

20 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.155.050 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 983 are each
21 amended to read as follows:

22 The public works assistance account is hereby established in the
23 state treasury. Money may be placed in the public works assistance
24 account from the proceeds of bonds when authorized by the legislature
25 or from any other lawful source. Money in the public works assistance
26 account shall be used to make loans and to give financial guarantees to
27 local governments for public works projects. Moneys in the account may
28 also be appropriated to provide for state match requirements under
29 federal law for projects and activities conducted and financed by the
30 board under the drinking water assistance account. Not more than
31 fifteen percent of the biennial capital budget appropriation to the
32 public works board from this account may be expended or obligated for
33 preconstruction loans, emergency loans, or loans for capital facility
34 planning under this chapter; of this amount, not more than ten percent
35 of the biennial capital budget appropriation may be expended for
36 emergency loans and not more than one percent of the biennial capital

1 budget appropriation may be expended for capital facility planning
2 loans. During the 2011-2013 and 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, the
3 legislature may transfer from the public works assistance account to
4 the general fund, the water pollution control revolving account, and
5 the drinking water assistance account such amounts as reflect the
6 excess fund balance of the account. During the 2011-2013 fiscal
7 biennium, the legislature may appropriate moneys from the account for
8 economic development, innovation, and export grants, including
9 brownfields; main street improvement grants; and the loan program
10 consolidation board. During the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, the
11 legislature may transfer from the public works assistance account to
12 the education legacy trust account such amounts as specified by the
13 legislature. During the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, the legislature may
14 appropriate moneys from the account to fund necessary expenses of the
15 task force established in section 1 of this act and the appropriation
16 specified in section 2, chapter . . ., Laws of 2014 (this act).

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
19 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
20 immediately.

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