
HOUSE BILL 2524

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Pike, Blake, Manweller, Vick, Shea, and Eslick

Read first time 01/10/18. Referred to Committee on Environment.

1 AN ACT Relating to soil samples in classifying agricultural and
2 forestland; and amending RCW 36.70A.050.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.70A.050 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 s 5 are each
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1) Subject to the definitions provided in RCW 36.70A.030, the
7 department shall adopt guidelines, under chapter 34.05 RCW, no later
8 than September 1, 1990, to guide the classification of: (a)
9 Agricultural lands; (b) forestlands; (c) mineral resource lands; and
10 (d) critical areas. The department shall consult with the department
11 of agriculture regarding guidelines for agricultural lands, the
12 department of natural resources regarding forestlands and mineral
13 resource lands, and the department of ecology regarding critical
14 areas.

15 (2) In carrying out its duties under this section, the department
16 shall consult with interested parties, including but not limited to:
17 (a) Representatives of cities; (b) representatives of counties; (c)
18 representatives of developers; (d) representatives of builders; (e)
19 representatives of owners of agricultural lands, forestlands, and
20 mining lands; (f) representatives of local economic development
21 officials; (g) representatives of environmental organizations; (h)

1 representatives of special districts; (i) representatives of the
2 governor's office and federal and state agencies; and (j)
3 representatives of Indian tribes. In addition to the consultation
4 required under this subsection, the department shall conduct public
5 hearings in the various regions of the state. The department shall
6 consider the public input obtained at such public hearings when
7 adopting the guidelines.

8 (3) The guidelines under subsection (1) of this section shall be
9 minimum guidelines that apply to all jurisdictions, but also shall
10 allow for regional differences that exist in Washington state. The
11 intent of these guidelines is to assist counties and cities in
12 designating the classification of agricultural lands, forestlands,
13 mineral resource lands, and critical areas under RCW 36.70A.170.

14 (4) The guidelines established by the department under this
15 section regarding classification of forestlands shall not be
16 inconsistent with guidelines adopted by the department of natural
17 resources.

18 (5) The department in consultation with the department of
19 agriculture shall adopt guidelines no later than January 1, 2019,
20 establishing a procedure for a person to remove a local
21 jurisdiction's designation of agricultural lands or forestlands as
22 defined in RCW 36.70A.030 in circumstances where soil surveys
23 conducted in accordance with standards promulgated by the United
24 States department of agriculture indicate that the composition of the
25 soil is not suitable to support activities or crops in accordance
26 with the local jurisdiction's designation.

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