
HOUSE BILL 2634

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Chapman, Graves, Fitzgibbon, Hayes, Tarleton, Hudgins, and McBride; by request of Department of Ecology

Read first time 01/11/18. Referred to Committee on Environment.

1 AN ACT Relating to antifouling paints on recreational water
2 vessels; amending RCW 70.300.005, 70.300.010, and 70.300.020;
3 creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.300.005 and 2011 c 248 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Antifouling paints and coatings are necessary for the proper
8 performance and preservation of boats and other marine craft.
9 However, many of these substances contain copper, biocides, and other
10 chemicals that are toxic to many aquatic organisms, including salmon.
11 The legislature intends to phase out the use of copper-based and
12 other antifouling paints and coatings that pose an undue threat to
13 the environment when used on recreational water vessels. The
14 legislature also intends to encourage the development of safer
15 alternatives to traditional antifouling paints and coatings.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.300.010 and 2011 c 248 s 2 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
19 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

20 (1) "Department" means the department of ecology.

1 (2) "Director" means the director of the department of ecology.

2 (3)(a) "Recreational water vessel" means any vessel that is no
3 more than sixty-five feet in length and is: (i) Manufactured or used
4 primarily for pleasure; or (ii) leased, rented, or chartered by a
5 person for the pleasure of that person.

6 (b) "Recreational water vessel" does not include a vessel that is
7 subject to United States coast guard inspection and that: (i) Is
8 engaged in commercial use; or (ii) carries paying passengers.

9 (4) "Wood boat" means a recreational water vessel with an
10 external hull surface entirely constructed of wood planks or sheets.
11 A vessel with a wood hull sheathed in a nonwood material, such as
12 fiberglass, is not a "wood boat" for purposes of this chapter.

13 **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.300.020 and 2011 c 248 s 3 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) Beginning January 1, (~~(2018)~~) 2021, no manufacturer,
16 wholesaler, retailer, or distributor may sell or offer for sale in
17 this state any new recreational water vessel manufactured on or after
18 January 1, (~~(2018)~~) 2021, with antifouling paint containing copper.
19 This restriction does not apply to wood boats.

20 (2) Beginning January 1, (~~(2020, no)~~) 2021, antifouling paint
21 that is intended for use on a recreational water vessel and that
22 contains more than 0.5 percent copper may not be offered for sale in
23 this state.

24 (3) Beginning January 1, (~~(2020, no)~~) 2021, antifouling paint
25 containing more than 0.5 percent copper may not be applied to a
26 recreational water vessel in this state. This restriction does not
27 apply to wood boats.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) By September 30, 2019, the department
29 of ecology is directed to report to the legislature regarding the
30 environmental impacts of antifouling paints and their ingredients,
31 whether antifouling paints or their ingredients are causing
32 environmental harm, safer alternatives to antifouling paints or
33 ingredients found in antifouling paints, and recommendations as to
34 whether changes to the existing regulation of antifouling paints are
35 needed. The report must also include recommendations about using
36 leaching rates as a regulatory standard. The department of ecology
37 shall specifically consider any new science with regard to the

1 bioavailability and toxicity of antifouling ingredients, specifically
2 including but not limited to copper and other biocides.

3 (2) In developing the report and recommendations in subsection
4 (1) of this section, the department of ecology is directed to review
5 risk assessments, scientific studies, and other relevant analyses
6 regarding antifouling paints and coatings and their ingredients,
7 including their environmental impacts and availability in Washington.
8 The department of ecology shall consult with other affected state
9 agencies and relevant stakeholders as appropriate.

10 (3) In developing the report and recommendations in subsection
11 (1) of this section, the department of ecology is directed to conduct
12 performance testing, modeling, alternatives assessments, and other
13 related scientific studies as needed or appropriate. This subsection
14 specifically includes, but is not limited to, Washington specific
15 studies to inform regulatory standards for antifouling paints and
16 coatings and their ingredients, such as a leaching standard.

17 (4) In developing the report and recommendations in subsection
18 (1) of this section, the department of ecology is directed to
19 consider any applicable data or other scientific information
20 available about the sources of copper in Washington's marinas. This
21 information may be included in the report, if appropriate.

22 (5) For the purposes of this section, "leach" or "leaching" means
23 the release of antifouling chemicals from paint, coatings, or other
24 substances.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 3 of this act is necessary for the
26 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or
27 support of the state government and its existing public institutions,
28 and takes effect immediately.

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