

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1978

As of February 16, 2022

Title: An act relating to shoreline master program review schedules.

Brief Description: Concerning shoreline master program review schedules.

Sponsors: Representatives Duerr and Pollet.

Brief History: Passed House: 1/28/22, 93-1.

Committee Activity: Environment, Energy & Technology: 2/16/22.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Extends the Shoreline Master Program review and revision cycle from eight to ten years.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY

Staff: Ashley Trunnell (786-7278)

Background: The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) was enacted by the Legislature in 1971 and adopted by voters in 1972. SMA requires all counties and most cities with shorelines to develop and implement a Shoreline Master Program (SMP). SMPs consist of local land-use policies and regulations that guide the use of Washington shorelines. SMPs apply to both public and private uses of lake, stream, wetland, and marine shorelines. SMPs are developed to protect natural resources, provide for public access to public waters and shores, and plan for water dependent uses.

Counties and cities must review and revise their SMP every eight years. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) provides guidance and technical assistance for local governments developing SMPs. Ecology also reviews and approves SMPs before their implementation.

Summary of Bill: The Shoreline Master Program review and revision cycle is increased

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Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Revising the review and revision schedule will help local governments save money and make the process more efficient. These revisions can take several years and having a longer time frame to update the Shoreline Master Program will make it easier for local governments.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Davina Duerr, Prime Sponsor; Paul Jewell, Washington State Association of Counties.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.