
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1303

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Mena, Berry, Reeves, Reed, Ormsby, Salahuddin, Ramel, Pollet, Nance, Doglio, and Scott)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing environmental justice by improving
2 government decisions; adding new sections to chapter 43.21C RCW; and
3 creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The purpose of this act is to reduce the
6 disparities in cumulative environmental and health impacts in
7 Washington and improve the health of all Washington residents.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21C
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1)(a) The department of ecology shall add environmental justice
11 as an element of the environment within WAC 197-11-444 and as a
12 component of the environmental checklist within WAC 197-11-960, as
13 those sections existed on the effective date of this section.

14 (b) Upon the adoption of rules by the department of ecology, a
15 lead agency must, in implementing the requirements of this chapter,
16 consider environmental justice in a manner consistent with its
17 consideration of other elements of the environment within WAC
18 197-11-444.

19 (2) In adopting rules to implement this section, the department
20 of ecology must identify mitigation guidance, which may include best

1 management practices, for potential adverse environmental impacts to
2 environmental justice.

3 (3) For purposes of this section "environmental justice" has the
4 same meaning as in RCW 70A.02.010.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21C
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The obligations applicable to lead agencies under section 2
8 of this act are in addition to and do not limit or amend the
9 obligations of covered agencies under chapter 70A.02 RCW.

10 (2) A covered agency under chapter 70A.02 RCW may adopt any
11 environmental justice assessment prepared under that chapter or apply
12 other analyses or processes under that chapter to satisfy the
13 requirements of section 2 of this act, to the extent that such an
14 environmental justice assessment and other analyses or processes
15 under that chapter are sufficient to satisfy the requirements of
16 section 2 of this act.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of
18 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
19 provided by June 30, 2025, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
20 act is null and void.

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