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HOUSE BILL 1817

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Chandler, Kessler, Alexander, Linville, DeBolt, O'Brien, Skinner, Wolfe, McMorris, Ogden, D. Sommers, Hankins, Cooke and Mason

Read first time 02/10/97. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

1 AN ACT Relating to a reclaimed water demonstration program;  
2 amending RCW 90.46.005; adding a new section to chapter 90.46 RCW; and  
3 making an appropriation.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 90.46.005 and 1995 c 342 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 The legislature finds that by encouraging the use of reclaimed  
8 water while assuring the health and safety of all Washington citizens  
9 and the protection of its environment, the state of Washington will  
10 continue to use water in the best interests of present and future  
11 generations.

12 To facilitate the use of reclaimed water as soon as is practicable,  
13 the legislature encourages the cooperative efforts of the public and  
14 private sectors and the use of pilot projects to effectuate the goals  
15 of this chapter. The legislature further directs the department of  
16 health and the department of ecology to coordinate efforts towards  
17 developing an efficient and streamlined process for creating and  
18 implementing processes for the use of reclaimed water.

1 It is hereby declared that the people of the state of Washington  
2 have a primary interest in the development of facilities to provide  
3 reclaimed water to replace potable water in nonpotable applications, to  
4 supplement existing surface and ground water supplies, and to assist in  
5 meeting the future water requirements of the state.

6 The legislature further finds and declares that the utilization of  
7 reclaimed water by local communities for domestic, agricultural,  
8 industrial, recreational, and fish and wildlife habitat creation and  
9 enhancement purposes, including wetland enhancement, will contribute to  
10 the peace, health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state of  
11 Washington. To the extent reclaimed water is appropriate for  
12 beneficial uses, it should be so used to preserve potable water for  
13 drinking purposes. Use of reclaimed water constitutes the development  
14 of new basic water supplies needed for future generations.

15 The legislature further finds and declares that the use of  
16 reclaimed water is not inconsistent with the policy of antidegradation  
17 of state waters announced in other state statutes, including the water  
18 pollution control act, chapter 90.48 RCW and the water resources act,  
19 chapter 90.54 RCW.

20 The legislature finds that other states, including California,  
21 Florida, and Arizona, have successfully used reclaimed water to  
22 supplement existing water supplies without threatening existing  
23 resources or public health.

24 It is the intent of the legislature that the department of ecology  
25 and the department of health undertake the necessary steps to encourage  
26 the development of water reclamation facilities so that reclaimed water  
27 may be made available to help meet the growing water requirements of  
28 the state.

29 The legislature further finds and declares that reclaimed water  
30 facilities are water pollution control facilities as defined in chapter  
31 70.146 RCW and are eligible for financial assistance as provided in  
32 chapter 70.146 RCW. The legislature finds that funding demonstration  
33 projects will ensure the future use of reclaimed water. The  
34 demonstration projects in section 2 of this act are varied in nature  
35 and will provide the experience necessary to test different facets of  
36 the standards and refine a variety of technologies so that water  
37 purveyors can begin to use reclaimed water technology in a more cost-  
38 effective manner. This is especially critical in smaller cities and

1 communities where the feasibility for such projects is great, but there  
2 are scarce resources to develop the necessary facilities.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 90.46 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The department of ecology shall establish and administer a  
6 reclaimed water demonstration program for the purposes of funding and  
7 monitoring the progress of five demonstration projects. The department  
8 shall work in cooperation with the department of health.

9 (2) The five demonstration projects will be:

10 (a) The city of Ephrata, to use class A reclaimed water for surface  
11 spreading that will recharge the groundwater and reduce the nitrate  
12 concentrations that currently exceed drinking water standards in  
13 domestic wells;

14 (b) Lincoln county, for a study of the use of reclaimed water to  
15 transport twenty-two million gallons a day from Spokane to water  
16 sources that will rehydrate and restore long depleted streambeds and  
17 eventually become part of the Columbia basin project water;

18 (c) The city of Royal City to replace an interim emergency  
19 sprayfield by using one hundred percent of its discharge as class A  
20 reclaimed water to augment irrigation water in the summer, enhance  
21 local wetlands and lakes in the winter, and potentially irrigate a golf  
22 course;

23 (d) The city of Sequim to implement a tertiary treatment system and  
24 reuse one hundred percent of the city's wastewater to reopen an  
25 existing shellfish closure area to benefit state and tribal resources,  
26 improve streamflows in the Dungeness river, and provide a sustainable  
27 water supply for irrigation purposes;

28 (e) The city of Yelm to use one hundred percent of its wastewater  
29 to provide alternative water supply for irrigation and industrial uses  
30 in order to offset increased demand for water supply, to protect the  
31 Nisqually river chum salmon runs, and to develop experimental  
32 artificial wetlands to test low cost treatment options.

33 (3) By September 30, 1997, the department of ecology shall enter  
34 into a grant agreement with the demonstration project jurisdictions  
35 that includes reporting requirements, timelines, and a fund  
36 disbursement schedule based on the agreed project milestones.

1 (4) Upon completion of the projects, the department of ecology  
2 shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the  
3 results of the program.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of ten million one hundred fifty  
5 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
6 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1999, to the department  
7 of ecology for the following purposes:

8 (1) The sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars for the  
9 departments of ecology and health to monitor the progress of the  
10 projects and further refine the standards; and

11 (2) The sum of ten million dollars for funding of the reclaimed  
12 water demonstration projects in section 2 of this act.

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