

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 6504

As Passed House:

March 4, 2008

Title: An act relating to exempting certain minor new construction associated with construction storm water general permits from the state environmental policy act.

Brief Description: Exempting certain minor new construction associated with construction storm water general permits from SEPA.

Sponsors: By Senators Hatfield, Swecker, Delvin, Regala, Schoesler, Morton, Pridemore and Rasmussen; by request of Department of Ecology.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Ecology & Parks: 2/20/08, 2/22/08 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/4/08, 94-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Exempts certain construction storm water projects from the State Environmental Policy Act.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY & PARKS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Upthegrove, Chair; Rolfes, Vice Chair; Sump, Ranking Minority Member; Dickerson, Eickmeyer, O'Brien and Pearson.

Staff: Jaclyn Ford (786-7339).

Background:

In 2005 the Department of Ecology (DOE) issued a new construction storm water general permit to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act. The permit requires construction projects that disturb one or more acres of land to get a storm water permit from the DOE before the start of construction. Because of the permit requirement, local governments are

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required to do a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review of the project. A SEPA review requires an environmental impact statement be written in order for the project to begin.

Summary of Bill:

A new construction storm water project does not need to have a SEPA review if it disturbs less than five acres. The exemption does not occur if the project is being constructed in an environmentally sensitive area.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This is permit streamlining that the builders support. This will restore the law to what it was before the DOE wrote their new storm water permits in 2005.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Senator Hatfield, prime sponsor; and Andrew Cook, Business Industry Association of Washington.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.