
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1656

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Select Committee on Puget Sound (originally sponsored by Representatives Rolfes, Upthegrove, B. Sullivan, Appleton, Chase, Santos, Dickerson and Sells)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a Puget Sound scientific research
2 account; adding a new section to chapter 90.71 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Although research about the conditions in
6 Puget Sound have been studied during the past several decades, the
7 legislature finds that there is no coordinated, focused, comprehensive
8 Puget Sound science program capable of setting research priorities for
9 Puget Sound science. The legislature finds that environmental problems
10 in Puget Sound are complex and research is needed to provide
11 information that can guide protective and restorative actions, and to
12 explore and understand the impacts of a changing environment. The
13 legislature also finds that there is no predictable funding process for
14 Puget Sound research projects, including the aquatic rehabilitation
15 zone one. The legislature declares that the state needs a process to
16 focus the scientific effort on the Puget Sound ecosystem and to
17 distribute research funds.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 90.71 RCW
2 to read as follows:
3 (1) The action team or its successor agency shall:
4 (a) Identify gaps in science related to:
5 (i) The restoration of the aquatic rehabilitation zone one, created
6 in RCW 90.88.010;
7 (ii) Puget Sound environmental protection; and
8 (iii) Puget Sound environmental restoration;
9 (b) Formulate a research plan that narrows key science research
10 gaps identified in (a) of this subsection;
11 (c) Develop a competitive process for soliciting research on Puget
12 Sound and on the aquatic rehabilitation zone one;
13 (d) Solicit and strategically prioritize research programs and
14 projects in accordance with (b) and (c) of this subsection.
15 Prioritization shall be determined by criteria that result in the
16 greatest preservation or restoration progress;
17 (e) Select and fund the highest priority research programs and
18 projects identified under (d) of this subsection; and
19 (f) Develop and implement an appropriate peer review process to
20 review results from the research programs and projects selected and
21 funded under (e) of this subsection.
22 (2) The Puget Sound scientific research account is created in the
23 state treasury. All gifts, grants, federal moneys, or appropriations
24 made to the account must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the
25 account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the
26 account may be used only for research programs and projects for the
27 purposes of subsection (1) of this section.

--- END ---