

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1997

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Environment, Water & Energy, March 17, 2009

Title: An act relating to Puget Sound scientific research.

Brief Description: Regarding Puget Sound scientific research.

Sponsors: Representatives Finn, Rolfes, Smith, Dunshee, Upthegrove, Kretz, Chase, Dickerson, Liias, Kagi, Nelson, Kessler, Hunt and Blake; by request of Puget Sound Partnership.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/05/09, 97-0.

Committee Activity: Environment, Water & Energy: 3/17/09 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, WATER & ENERGY

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Rockefeller, Chair; Pridemore, Vice Chair; Delvin, Fraser, Hatfield, Holmquist, Morton and Ranker.

Staff: Sam Thompson (786-7413)

Background: The Puget Sound Scientific Research Account (Account), created in 2007 legislation, funds research programs and projects. The Governor vetoed a provision in the 2007 legislation that directed the Puget Sound Partnership's (PSP) Leadership Council to select programs and projects for funding from the Account because it conflicted with other legislation assigning similar responsibilities to the PSP's Science Panel (Science Panel). The Science Panel is a nine-member body charged with providing the PSP with scientific analysis, recommendations, and oversight of research projects. The Science Panel also develops a strategic science program, which may address assessment and monitoring, modeling, data management, and a list of critical research needs.

The Governor's veto message directed the PSP to develop legislation harmonizing Account provisions with other provisions concerning PSP operations.

Summary of Bill: Expenditures from the Account are limited to research programs and projects selected by a process developed and overseen by the Science Panel. The Science Panel must develop and implement an appropriate process for peer review of monitoring, research, and modeling conducted as part of the PSP's strategic science program.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This is a technical bill designed to ensure accountability. Its purpose is to align expenditure of Account funds with Science Panel priorities.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Finn, prime sponsor; Michael Grayum, PSP.