Washington State
House of Representatives
Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

ESSB 5324

Brief Description: Concerning mosquito abatement in storm water control retention ponds.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Energy, Environment & Telecommunications (originally sponsored by Senators Honeyford, Fraser and Ericksen).

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- Requires a county, city, town, water-sewer district, or flood control zone district to construct storm water retention ponds in a manner that minimizes mosquito habitat and propagation.

Hearing Date: 3/21/13

Staff: Cherlyn Walden (786-7296).

Background:

Storm water control facilities are engineered facilities that are designed to convey storm runoff, remove pollutants and to control flow rates. These facilities include pipes, ditches, swales, filters, ponds, underground tanks and vaults. These systems are specifically designed to capture, treat, store, and then slowly release storm water runoff downstream or into the ground. Cities, towns, counties, and water-sewer districts may construct storm water control facilities to help prevent flooding and erosion and to protect public health, highways, property, and other facilities.

West Nile virus (WNV) is transmitted to humans and other animals through bites from infected mosquitoes. WNV is a reportable disease and when discovered in animals or suspected in humans, health care providers and facilities must notify local health jurisdictions within three business days. Local health jurisdictions must report investigations to the Department of Health.

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.

WNV was first detected in Washington in 2002, and the first human case was reported in 2006. In 2009, there were 38 human cases. There have been no reported cases thus far in 2013.

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a coordinated decision-making and action process that uses the most appropriate pest control methods and strategy in an environmentally and economically sound manner to meet programmatic pest control objectives. The Department of Agriculture, the State Noxious Weed Control Board, the Department of Ecology, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Enterprise Services, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and each state institution of higher education must each implement integrated pest management practices when carrying out their duties related to pest control. It relies on information about the life-cycles of pests, their interaction with the environment, and using available pest control methods.

Summary of Bill:

A county, city, town, water-sewer district, or flood control zone district must:

- consider, and to the extent possible consistent with the Department of Ecology's design guidelines for storm water retention ponds, construct storm water facilities to maintain and control vegetation to inhibit mosquito breeding;
- consult with local mosquito control districts, where established, when developing construction plans that include storm water retention ponds; and
- maintain and control vegetation growth in storm water retention ponds to minimize mosquito habitat and breeding.

When notified of the presence of WNV or other mosquito-borne human diseases, a county, city, town, water-sewer district, or flood control zone district must consult with the Department of Health or a mosquito control district to determine which integrated pest management strategies for mosquito control in storm water retention ponds would be most effective to prevent the spread of the disease. In areas where mosquito control districts are established, the district is responsible for the mosquito abatement.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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