

---

HOUSE BILL 1113

---

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Short, Upthegrove, Springer, Pollet, Taylor, Smith, Fagan, Dahlquist, and Fey

Read first time 01/16/13. Referred to Committee on Environment.

1 AN ACT Relating to standards for the use of science to support  
2 public policy; adding a new section to chapter 34.05 RCW; and creating  
3 a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that it is  
6 critically important that scientific information used to inform public  
7 policy be of the highest quality and integrity. Furthermore, the  
8 legislature recognizes that a public benefit is derived from greater  
9 transparency as to what scientific information, data, or records are  
10 being used to inform public policy or relied upon in agency decision  
11 making.

12 (2) Therefore, in order to help ensure that agencies routinely use  
13 scientifically credible information in conducting their policy-making  
14 functions, it is the intent of the legislature to have those sources of  
15 scientific information reviewed and relied upon by agencies be  
16 identified in a clear and transparent way.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 34.05 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

1 (1) This section applies only to the water quality and shorelands  
2 and environmental assistance programs within the department of ecology.

3 (2) Before taking a significant agency action, the department of  
4 ecology must identify the sources of information reviewed and relied  
5 upon by the agency in the course of preparing to take significant  
6 agency action. Peer-reviewed literature, if applicable, must be  
7 identified, as well as any scientific literature or other sources of  
8 information used. The department of ecology shall make available on  
9 the agency's web site the index of records required under RCW  
10 42.56.070(6) that are relied upon, or invoked, in support of a proposal  
11 for significant agency action.

12 (3) For the purposes of this section, "significant agency action"  
13 means an act of the department of ecology that:

14 (a) Results in the development of a significant legislative rule as  
15 defined in RCW 34.05.328; or

16 (b) Results in the development of technical guidance, technical  
17 assessments, or technical documents that are used to directly support  
18 implementation of a state rule or state statute.

19 (4) This section is not intended to affect agency action regarding  
20 individual permitting, compliance and enforcement decisions, or  
21 guidance provided by an agency to a local government on a case-by-case  
22 basis.

--- END ---