

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2082

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### As Reported By House Committee On:

Appropriations

**Title:** An act relating to eliminating the wood stove education program and associated fees.

**Brief Description:** Eliminating the wood stove education program.

**Sponsors:** Representative Chandler.

### Brief History:

#### Committee Activity:

Appropriations: 3/21/95, 3/22/95 [DP].

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## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 22 members: Representatives Silver, Chairman; Clements, Vice Chairman; Huff, Vice Chairman; Pelesky, Vice Chairman; Basich; Beeksma; Brumsickle; Carlson; Chappell; Cooke; Crouse; Foreman; Grant; Hargrove; Hickel; Lambert; Lisk; McMorris; Reams; Sehlin; Sheahan and Talcott.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Sommers, Ranking Minority Member; Valle, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Dellwo; G. Fisher; Jacobsen; Poulsen; Rust; Thibaudeau and Wolfe.

**Staff:** Nancy Stevenson (786-7137).

**Background:** In 1987, the Legislature directed the Department of Ecology to establish a program to educate the public and wood stove dealers regarding emissions from the use of wood stoves. The program must include information about: the effects of wood stove emissions; methods of achieving better emission performance; the benefits of replacing inefficient wood stoves; and wood stoves that have been approved by the department and the Environmental Protection Agency as meeting emission standards.

The original legislation established a flat fee of \$5 on the retail sale of wood stoves to support the education program. The fee was increased by the Legislature to \$15 in 1990, and to \$30 in 1991. In 1990, the use of fee revenue was expanded to include

enforcement activities. Fees are deposited into the Wood Stove Education and Enforcement Account.

The 1993-95 Omnibus Appropriations Act appropriates \$1.3 million from wood stove fees.

**Summary of Bill:** The bill repeals the requirement for the Department of Ecology to establish the wood stove public education program. The Wood Stove Education and Enforcement Account is eliminated. The \$30 wood stove fee is repealed.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on March 20, 1995.

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

**Testimony For:** None.

**Testimony Against:** Wood stove emissions represent 12 percent of the state's air particulate pollution problem. This program takes a cooperative approach in reducing emissions from wood stoves and avoids more heavy handed regulations. This program should be continued, not eliminated.

**Testified:** Bruce Wishart, Sierra Club (con).