
HOUSE BILL 1055

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Padden, Fuhrman and Sheldon

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1 AN ACT Relating to exempting docks of less than seven hundred
2 square feet from the definition of substantial development under the
3 shorelines management act; and amending RCW 90.58.030.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 90.58.030 and 1987 c 474 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the
8 following definitions and concepts apply:

9 (1) Administration:

10 (a) "Department" means the department of ecology;

11 (b) "Director" means the director of the department of ecology;

12 (c) "Local government" means any county, incorporated city, or town
13 which contains within its boundaries any lands or waters subject to
14 this chapter;

15 (d) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation,
16 association, organization, cooperative, public or municipal
17 corporation, or agency of the state or local governmental unit however
18 designated;

1 (e) "Hearing board" means the shoreline hearings board established
2 by this chapter.

3 (2) Geographical:

4 (a) "Extreme low tide" means the lowest line on the land reached by
5 a receding tide;

6 (b) "Ordinary high water mark" on all lakes, streams, and tidal
7 water is that mark that will be found by examining the bed and banks
8 and ascertaining where the presence and action of waters are so common
9 and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to mark upon
10 the soil a character distinct from that of the abutting upland, in
11 respect to vegetation as that condition exists on June 1, 1971, as it
12 may naturally change thereafter, or as it may change thereafter in
13 accordance with permits issued by a local government or the department:
14 PROVIDED, That in any area where the ordinary high water mark cannot be
15 found, the ordinary high water mark adjoining salt water shall be the
16 line of mean higher high tide and the ordinary high water mark
17 adjoining fresh water shall be the line of mean high water;

18 (c) "Shorelines of the state" are the total of all "shorelines" and
19 "shorelines of state-wide significance" within the state;

20 (d) "Shorelines" means all of the water areas of the state,
21 including reservoirs, and their associated wetlands, together with the
22 lands underlying them; except (i) shorelines of state-wide
23 significance; (ii) shorelines on segments of streams upstream of a
24 point where the mean annual flow is twenty cubic feet per second or
25 less and the wetlands associated with such upstream segments; and (iii)
26 shorelines on lakes less than twenty acres in size and wetlands
27 associated with such small lakes;

28 (e) "Shorelines of state-wide significance" means the following
29 shorelines of the state:

30 (i) The area between the ordinary high water mark and the western
31 boundary of the state from Cape Disappointment on the south to Cape
32 Flattery on the north, including harbors, bays, estuaries, and inlets;

33 (ii) Those areas of Puget Sound and adjacent salt waters and the
34 Strait of Juan de Fuca between the ordinary high water mark and the
35 line of extreme low tide as follows:

36 (A) Nisqually Delta--from DeWolf Bight to Tatsolo Point,

37 (B) Birch Bay--from Point Whitehorn to Birch Point,

38 (C) Hood Canal--from Tala Point to Foulweather Bluff,

1 (D) Skagit Bay and adjacent area--from Brown Point to Yokeko Point,
2 and

3 (E) Padilla Bay--from March Point to William Point;

4 (iii) Those areas of Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca and
5 adjacent salt waters north to the Canadian line and lying seaward from
6 the line of extreme low tide;

7 (iv) Those lakes, whether natural, artificial, or a combination
8 thereof, with a surface acreage of one thousand acres or more measured
9 at the ordinary high water mark;

10 (v) Those natural rivers or segments thereof as follows:

11 (A) Any west of the crest of the Cascade range downstream of a
12 point where the mean annual flow is measured at one thousand cubic feet
13 per second or more,

14 (B) Any east of the crest of the Cascade range downstream of a
15 point where the annual flow is measured at two hundred cubic feet per
16 second or more, or those portions of rivers east of the crest of the
17 Cascade range downstream from the first three hundred square miles of
18 drainage area, whichever is longer;

19 (vi) Those wetlands associated with (i), (ii), (iv), and (v) of
20 this subsection (2)(e);

21 (f) "Wetlands" or "wetland areas" means those lands extending
22 landward for two hundred feet in all directions as measured on a
23 horizontal plane from the ordinary high water mark; floodways and
24 contiguous floodplain areas landward two hundred feet from such
25 floodways; and all marshes, bogs, swamps, and river deltas associated
26 with the streams, lakes, and tidal waters which are subject to the
27 provisions of this chapter; the same to be designated as to location by
28 the department of ecology: PROVIDED, That any county or city may
29 determine that portion of a one-hundred-year-flood plain to be included
30 in its master program as long as such portion includes, as a minimum,
31 the floodway and the adjacent land extending landward two hundred feet
32 therefrom;

33 (g) "Floodway" means those portions of the area of a river valley
34 lying streamward from the outer limits of a watercourse upon which
35 flood waters are carried during periods of flooding that occur with
36 reasonable regularity, although not necessarily annually, said floodway
37 being identified, under normal condition, by changes in surface soil
38 conditions or changes in types or quality of vegetative ground cover
39 condition. The floodway shall not include those lands that can

1 reasonably be expected to be protected from flood waters by flood
2 control devices maintained by or maintained under license from the
3 federal government, the state, or a political subdivision of the state.

4 (3) Procedural terms:

5 (a) "Guidelines" means those standards adopted to implement the
6 policy of this chapter for regulation of use of the shorelines of the
7 state prior to adoption of master programs. Such standards shall also
8 provide criteria to local governments and the department in developing
9 master programs;

10 (b) "Master program" shall mean the comprehensive use plan for a
11 described area, and the use regulations together with maps, diagrams,
12 charts, or other descriptive material and text, a statement of desired
13 goals, and standards developed in accordance with the policies
14 enunciated in RCW 90.58.020;

15 (c) "State master program" is the cumulative total of all master
16 programs approved or adopted by the department of ecology;

17 (d) "Development" means a use consisting of the construction or
18 exterior alteration of structures; dredging; drilling; dumping;
19 filling; removal of any sand, gravel, or minerals; bulkheading; driving
20 of piling; placing of obstructions; or any project of a permanent or
21 temporary nature which interferes with the normal public use of the
22 surface of the waters overlying lands subject to this chapter at any
23 state of water level;

24 (e) "Substantial development" shall mean any development of which
25 the total cost or fair market value exceeds two thousand five hundred
26 dollars, or any development which materially interferes with the normal
27 public use of the water or shorelines of the state; except that the
28 following shall not be considered substantial developments for the
29 purpose of this chapter:

30 (i) Normal maintenance or repair of existing structures or
31 developments, including damage by accident, fire, or elements;

32 (ii) Construction of the normal protective bulkhead common to
33 single family residences;

34 (iii) Emergency construction necessary to protect property from
35 damage by the elements;

36 (iv) Construction and practices normal or necessary for farming,
37 irrigation, and ranching activities, including agricultural service
38 roads and utilities on wetlands, and the construction and maintenance
39 of irrigation structures including but not limited to head gates,

1 pumping facilities, and irrigation channels: PROVIDED, That a feedlot
2 of any size, all processing plants, other activities of a commercial
3 nature, alteration of the contour of the wetlands by leveling or
4 filling other than that which results from normal cultivation, shall
5 not be considered normal or necessary farming or ranching activities.
6 A feedlot shall be an enclosure or facility used or capable of being
7 used for feeding livestock hay, grain, silage, or other livestock feed,
8 but shall not include land for growing crops or vegetation for
9 livestock feeding and/or grazing, nor shall it include normal livestock
10 wintering operations;

11 (v) Construction or modification of navigational aids such as
12 channel markers and anchor buoys;

13 (vi) Construction on wetlands by an owner, lessee, or contract
14 purchaser of a single family residence for his own use or for the use
15 of his family, which residence does not exceed a height of thirty-five
16 feet above average grade level and which meets all requirements of the
17 state agency or local government having jurisdiction thereof, other
18 than requirements imposed pursuant to this chapter;

19 (vii) Construction of a dock, including a community dock, designed
20 for pleasure craft only, for the private noncommercial use of the
21 owner, lessee, or contract purchaser of single and multiple family
22 residences, (~~the cost of which does not exceed two thousand five~~
23 ~~hundred dollars~~) that is no more than seven hundred square feet in
24 surface area, including the ramp, and no section of which is wider than
25 ten feet;

26 (viii) Operation, maintenance, or construction of canals,
27 waterways, drains, reservoirs, or other facilities that now exist or
28 are hereafter created or developed as a part of an irrigation system
29 for the primary purpose of making use of system waters, including
30 return flow and artificially stored ground water for the irrigation of
31 lands;

32 (ix) The marking of property lines or corners on state owned lands,
33 when such marking does not significantly interfere with normal public
34 use of the surface of the water;

35 (x) Operation and maintenance of any system of dikes, ditches,
36 drains, or other facilities existing on September 8, 1975, which were
37 created, developed, or utilized primarily as a part of an agricultural
38 drainage or diking system;

1 (xi) Any action commenced prior to December 31, 1982, pertaining to
2 (A) the restoration of interim transportation services as may be
3 necessary as a consequence of the destruction of the Hood Canal bridge,
4 including, but not limited to, improvements to highways, development of
5 park and ride facilities, and development of ferry terminal facilities
6 until a new or reconstructed Hood Canal bridge is open to traffic; and
7 (B) the reconstruction of a permanent bridge at the site of the
8 original Hood Canal bridge.

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