
HOUSE BILL 1108

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Reams, Rust, L. Thomas and Wolfe; by request of Governor Lowry

Read first time 01/12/95. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the reauthorization of the Puget Sound water
2 quality authority; amending RCW 90.70.011, 90.70.025, 90.70.055, and
3 90.70.065; repealing RCW 90.70.035, 90.70.045, 90.70.902, 43.131.369,
4 and 43.131.370; providing an effective date; and declaring an
5 emergency.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 90.70.011 and 1990 c 115 s 2 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 (1) There is established the Puget Sound water quality authority
10 composed of eleven members. Nine members shall be appointed by the
11 governor and confirmed by the senate. In addition, the commissioner of
12 public lands or the commissioner's designee and the director of ecology
13 or the director's designee shall serve as ex officio members. Three of
14 the members shall include a representative from the counties, a
15 representative from the cities, and a tribal representative. The
16 director of ecology shall be chair of the authority. In making these
17 appointments, the governor shall seek to include representation of the
18 variety of interested parties concerned about Puget Sound water
19 quality. (~~Of the appointed members, at least one shall be selected~~

1 ~~from each of the six congressional districts surrounding Puget Sound.))~~
2 Appointments to the authority shall reflect geographical balance and
3 the diversity of population within the Puget Sound basin. Members
4 shall serve four-year terms. Of the initial members appointed to the
5 authority, two shall serve for two years, two shall serve for three
6 years, and two shall serve for four years. Thereafter members shall be
7 appointed to four-year terms. Members representing cities, counties,
8 and the tribes shall also serve four-year staggered terms, as
9 determined by the governor. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment
10 for the remainder of the unexpired term of the position being vacated.
11 ~~((The executive director of the authority shall be selected by the~~
12 ~~governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. The~~
13 ~~executive director shall not be a member of the authority.~~

14 ~~(2))~~ Members shall be compensated as provided in RCW 43.03.250.
15 Members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW
16 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

17 (2) The executive director of the authority shall be selected by
18 the governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. The
19 executive director shall not be a member of the authority.

20 (3) The executive director of the authority shall be a full-time
21 employee responsible for the administration of all functions of the
22 authority, including hiring and terminating staff, budget preparation,
23 contracting, coordinating with the governor, the legislature, and other
24 state and local entities, and the delegation of responsibilities as
25 deemed appropriate. The salary of the executive director shall be
26 fixed by the governor, subject to RCW 43.03.040.

27 ~~(4) ((The authority shall prepare a budget and a work plan.~~

28 ~~(5))~~ Not more than four employees of the authority may be exempt
29 from the provisions of chapter 41.06 RCW.

30 ~~((6))~~ (5) The executive director and staff of the authority shall
31 be located in the Olympia area(~~(, as space becomes available)~~). The
32 department of general administration shall house the authority within
33 the department of ecology.

34 **Sec. 2.** RCW 90.70.025 and 1985 c 451 s 5 are each amended to read
35 as follows:

36 In order to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter, the
37 authority may:

1 (1) ~~((Develop interim proposals and recommendations, before the~~
2 ~~plan is adopted, concerning the elements identified in RCW 90.70.060;~~
3 ~~(2))~~) Enter into, amend, and terminate contracts with individuals,
4 corporations, or research institutions for the purposes of this
5 chapter;
6 ~~((3))~~) (2) Receive such gifts, grants, and endowments, in trust or
7 otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of the authority.
8 The authority may expend the same or any income therefrom according to
9 the terms of the gifts, grants, or endowments;
10 ~~((4))~~) (3) Conduct studies and research relating to Puget Sound
11 water quality;
12 ~~((5))~~) (4) Obtain information relating to Puget Sound from other
13 state and local agencies;
14 ~~((6))~~) (5) Conduct appropriate public hearings and otherwise seek
15 to broadly disseminate information concerning Puget Sound;
16 ~~((7))~~) (6) Receive and expend funding from other public agencies;
17 (7) Establish priorities for funding the implementation of the
18 plan;
19 (8) ~~((Prepare a biennial budget request for consideration by the~~
20 ~~governor and the legislature; and~~
21 ~~(9))~~) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW as it deems necessary for
22 the purposes of this chapter; and
23 (9) Appoint ad hoc advisory committees as necessary to facilitate
24 plan revision, plan implementation, coordination of the ambient
25 monitoring program, and the conduct of other duties under this chapter.

26 **Sec. 3.** RCW 90.70.055 and 1990 c 115 s 4 are each amended to read
27 as follows:

28 The authority shall:

29 (1) Prepare ~~((and))~~, adopt, and revise a comprehensive Puget Sound
30 water quality management plan and a strategy for implementing the plan,
31 as defined in RCW 90.70.060. In preparing the plan and any substantial
32 revisions to the plan, the authority shall consult with its advisory
33 ~~((committee or))~~ committees ~~((and))~~; appropriate federal, state, and
34 local agencies; tribal governments; and private interests. The
35 authority shall also solicit extensive participation by the public by
36 whatever means it finds appropriate, including public hearings
37 throughout communities bordering or near Puget Sound, dissemination of

1 information through the news media, public notices, and mailing lists,
2 and the organization of workshops, conferences, and seminars;

3 ~~(2) ((During the plan's initial development and any subsequent~~
4 ~~revisions, submit annual progress reports on plan revisions and~~
5 ~~implementation to the governor and the legislature.~~

6 ~~(3) Submit the plan to the governor and the legislature no later~~
7 ~~than January 1, 1987. The authority shall)) Review the plan at least~~
8 ~~every ((four)) six years and revise the plan, as deemed appropriate((7~~
9 ~~and shall submit the plan by July 1, 1994)).~~ A revised plan shall be
10 submitted to the governor and the legislature by July 1, 2000, and
11 every ((four)) six years thereafter;

12 ~~((+4))~~ (3) Prepare a biennial "state of the Sound" report and
13 submit such report to the governor, the legislature, and the state
14 agencies and local governments identified in the plan. Copies of the
15 report shall be made available to the public. The report shall
16 describe the current condition of water quality and related resources
17 in Puget Sound and ((shall)) include an assessment of the extent to
18 which implementation of the plan has occurred and resulted in progress
19 toward improving and protecting water quality in Puget Sound. The
20 assessment shall be based upon an evaluation of performance measures
21 required by subsection (5) of this section. The report may also
22 include, but not be limited to:

23 (a) The status and condition of the resources of Puget Sound,
24 including the results of ecological monitoring, including an assessment
25 of the economic value of Puget Sound;

26 (b) Current and foreseeable trends in water quality of Puget Sound
27 and the management of its resources;

28 (c) Review of significant public and private activities affecting
29 Puget Sound and an assessment of whether such activities are consistent
30 with the plan; and

31 (d) Recommendations to the governor, the legislature, and
32 appropriate state and local agencies for actions needed to remedy any
33 deficiencies in current policies, plans, programs, or activities
34 relating to the water quality of Puget Sound, and recommendations
35 concerning changes necessary to protect and improve Puget Sound water
36 quality; ~~((and~~

37 ~~(+5))~~ (4) Review the ((Puget Sound related budgets and regulatory
38 and enforcement activities)) status of plan implementation efforts of

1 state agencies with responsibilities for water quality and related
2 resources in Puget Sound;

3 (5) In consultation with state agencies, develop and track
4 quantifiable performance measures that can be used by the governor and
5 the legislature to assess the effectiveness over time of programs and
6 actions initiated under the plan to improve and protect Puget Sound
7 water quality and biological resources. The performance measures shall
8 be developed by June 30, 1996. State agencies shall assist the
9 authority in the development and tracking of these performance
10 measures. The performance measures may be limited to selected
11 geographic areas;

12 (6) Emphasize plan implementation by providing state and local
13 agencies with direct technical assistance, research, education,
14 coordination, and other services that are necessary to implement the
15 plan in a timely and efficient manner; and

16 (7) To reduce costs and improve efficiency, review by December 1,
17 1995, all requirements for reports and documentation from state
18 agencies and local governments specified in the plan and in this
19 chapter. Based on this review, the authority shall, if appropriate,
20 eliminate and consolidate reports, modify reporting schedules to
21 correspond to publication of the state of the Sound report, and modify
22 reporting requirements to support evaluation of performance measures
23 required by subsection (5) of this section.

24 **Sec. 4.** RCW 90.70.065 and 1994 c 264 s 98 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 (1) In addition to other powers and duties specified in this
27 chapter, the authority shall ensure implementation and coordination of
28 the Puget Sound ambient monitoring program established in the plan
29 under RCW 90.70.060(12). The program shall:

30 (a) Develop a baseline and examine differences among areas of Puget
31 Sound, for environmental conditions, natural resources, and
32 contaminants in (~~seafood~~) sediments and marine life, against which
33 future changes can be measured;

34 (b) Take measurements relating to specific program elements
35 identified in the plan;

36 (c) Measure the progress of the ambient monitoring programs
37 implemented under the plan;

1 (d) Provide a permanent record of significant natural and human-
2 caused changes in key environmental indicators in Puget Sound; and

3 (e) Help support research on Puget Sound.

4 (2) (~~To ensure proper coordination of the ambient monitoring~~
5 ~~program, the authority may establish an interagency coordinating~~
6 ~~committee consisting of representatives from the departments of~~
7 ~~ecology, fish and wildlife, natural resources, and health, and such~~
8 ~~federal, local, tribal, and other organizations as are necessary to~~
9 ~~implement the program.~~

10 (3)) Each state agency with responsibilities for implementing the
11 Puget Sound ambient monitoring program(~~(, as specified in the plan,)~~)
12 shall participate in the program, as specified in the plan.

13 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. The following acts or parts of acts are each
14 repealed:

15 (1) RCW 90.70.035 and 1985 c 451 s 6;

16 (2) RCW 90.70.045 and 1994 c 264 s 97, 1990 c 115 s 3, 1988 c 36 s
17 72, & 1985 c 451 s 7;

18 (3) RCW 90.70.902 and 1990 c 115 s 13;

19 (4) RCW 43.131.369 and 1990 c 115 s 11; and

20 (5) RCW 43.131.370 and 1990 c 115 s 12.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. This act is necessary for the immediate
22 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
23 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
24 effect June 30, 1995.

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