
HOUSE BILL 2503

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Campbell, Smith and Scheuerman

Read first time 01/11/96. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

1 AN ACT Relating to limiting the siting of solid waste landfills;
2 adding a new section to chapter 70.95 RCW; creating a new section; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is
6 approximately a fifty-year capacity within existing municipal solid
7 waste landfills in the state. The legislature also finds that ground
8 water contamination is the most serious environmental threat posed by
9 municipal solid waste landfills and that the potential for contaminated
10 ground water is far less in arid climates. The legislature further
11 finds that approximately forty percent of garbage is currently being
12 disposed of within arid areas of the state. The legislature therefore
13 declares that no new municipal solid waste landfill shall be located in
14 a site that receives an average of twelve or more inches of rain per
15 year.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.95 RCW
17 to read as follows:

1 As of April 1, 1996, no new municipal solid waste landfill may be
2 sited in an area of the state that receives twelve or more inches of
3 rain per year, based on the most recent thirty-year average. This
4 section shall not apply to the expansion of any landfill that has been
5 legally permitted before April 1, 1996.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
7 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
8 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
9 effect immediately.

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