
SENATE BILL 6149

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1996 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Swecker and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/08/96. Referred to Committee on Ecology & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to the development of state-wide wastewater reuse
2 standards; creating new sections; making an appropriation; providing an
3 expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) The use of reclaimed water was recognized by the legislature as
7 a high priority in 1992 legislation and state regulatory agencies were
8 directed to coordinate their efforts towards facilitating uses of
9 reclaimed water;

10 (b) The 1995 legislature provided additional directives and funding
11 to complete standards applicable to a wider variety of uses of
12 reclaimed water, but the lack of experience with pilot projects in this
13 state may hinder the development of such standards;

14 (c) Innovative water reuse projects may help to avoid the costly
15 development of new sources of water and provide a more cost-effective
16 strategy for a municipality's provision of water supplies and treatment
17 of the water following its use;

18 (d) State and federal expenditures to municipalities in Washington
19 state for wastewater facilities since 1972 has exceeded two billion

1 dollars, the vast majority of which has been spent on funding for
2 secondary wastewater treatment plant upgrades. Most of these
3 facilities will be inadequate by the year 2000 to meet new treatment
4 requirements and meet new demand within their service area based upon
5 expected growth for that area;

6 (e) The principal state and federal treatment technology
7 requirements are geared toward the discharge of wastewater to a surface
8 water body without reuse before that discharge. The financial
9 resources necessary to construct or expand systems that meet the
10 technical requirements of discharging to surface water render advanced
11 treatment beyond the capability of many communities in Washington
12 state;

13 (f) The process of recapturing and reusing one hundred percent of
14 a community's treated wastewater has the potential for making advanced
15 treatment a financial and technical reality in many communities across
16 the state. Unfortunately, the use of low-technology, low-cost methods
17 in that process is virtually untested in this state and, therefore,
18 state regulators have no standards to apply to the implementation of
19 such a process. Conversely, a community could not develop a full-
20 scale, one hundred percent wastewater reuse project today because there
21 are no state standards to apply to such a project;

22 (g) The opportunity to develop a model wastewater reuse facility
23 for the entire state exists in the city of Yelm today. The city of
24 Yelm has completed a pilot project study and determined that a
25 comprehensive, one hundred percent wastewater reuse project is not only
26 feasible, but highly desirable. The city has procured the necessary
27 funds for designing such a project, but is still awaiting funding for
28 the construction phase. The financial share of construction
29 attributable to the benefits to the state of Washington is seven
30 million dollars;

31 (h) The city of Yelm wastewater reuse state demonstration project
32 will establish a diverse array of applications, from irrigation to
33 industrial uses, from deep-well injection to constructed wetlands. The
34 treatment process for all of these applications will produce data and
35 information that can be used by the state departments of ecology and
36 health to establish the standards needed by communities state-wide for
37 the development of equivalent systems; and

38 (i) Without the Yelm project and without state funding for the Yelm
39 project, the state and its municipal subdivisions will be more likely

1 to invest greater financial resources in the provision of water
2 supplies and water treatment. The city of Yelm wastewater reuse state
3 demonstration project is a project for the twenty-first century that
4 will set the standard for a new generation of affordable treatment
5 technology.

6 (2) It is the purpose of this act to recognize and establish the
7 importance of the city of Yelm wastewater reuse state demonstration
8 project to the entire state of Washington. It is further the purpose
9 of this act to appropriate the funds necessary to construct this
10 project now in order to realize these state-wide benefits as early as
11 possible.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The city of Yelm wastewater reuse
13 project is designated a state water quality demonstration project for
14 the purpose of providing information and experience to apply in
15 pursuing water reuse strategies throughout the state.

16 (2) The department of ecology shall enter a grant agreement with
17 the city of Yelm no later than January 1, 1997, that includes reporting
18 requirements, timelines, and a fund disbursement schedule based upon
19 agreed project milestones.

20 (3) Upon project completion, the city of Yelm and the department of
21 ecology shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature
22 on the project authorized in this section and its applicability to
23 other potential water reuse projects throughout the state.

24 (4) This section expires December 31, 1998.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of seven million dollars, or as much
26 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending
27 June 30, 1997, from the state general fund to the department of ecology
28 for the purpose of assisting in funding the construction of the city of
29 Yelm wastewater reuse state demonstration project.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
31 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
32 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
33 effect immediately.

--- END ---