
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6666

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ecology & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Winsley, Haugen, Fairley, Swecker, McDonald, Fraser, McAuliffe and Rasmussen)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to nuisance aquatic weeds; creating new sections;
2 making an appropriation; providing an expiration date; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington's
6 lakes, particularly urban and suburban lakes, are experiencing
7 pollution problems. There are frequent conflicts between shoreline
8 property owners, who want a lake free of nuisance and noxious aquatic
9 weeds for health, natural habitat, and recreation purposes, and local
10 and state agencies, who are charged with protecting water quality and
11 habitat quality in the lakes. Human-caused pollution and natural
12 factors that cause the growth of the nuisance and noxious aquatic weeds
13 in lakes often have diffuse sources and can create dangerous
14 conditions.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is created a committee to develop a
16 Washington state lake health plan. The lake health plan shall include,
17 but not be limited to, the following elements:

1 (1) An overview of the science of lakes management in general, and
2 aquatic weeds in particular, using peer-reviewed studies and prior
3 completed environmental impact statements, where possible. This
4 scientific overview should identify and critically evaluate the various
5 methods and techniques available for lake restoration and weed
6 management;

7 (2) An analysis of the existing federal and state statutes,
8 regulations, and policies dealing with lakes management. The plan
9 shall provide recommendations on how to eliminate conflicts and
10 inconsistencies in these legal requirements;

11 (3) An assessment of, and recommendations addressing, the problems
12 arising from overlapping state and local agency programs and
13 procedures;

14 (4) Recommendations on sources of state and local funding for lakes
15 management. The funding mechanisms should reflect a preference for
16 local solutions, and on involving all of the contributors to a lake's
17 pollution in the funding of lake management expenses; and

18 (5) A plan or program to provide public information and education
19 concerning how to prevent lake pollution and improve lake health. The
20 committee consists of the following members: One representative from
21 each caucus of the senate, selected by the president of the senate; one
22 representative from each caucus of the house of representatives,
23 selected by the speaker of the house of representatives; the director
24 or the director's designee from the departments of fish and wildlife,
25 health, ecology, natural resources, and agriculture; one county
26 government representative from a county on the east side of the state
27 and one county government representative from a county on the west side
28 of the state; one city government representative; three lakeside
29 homeowners, including at least one representative from the Washington
30 association of lake protection associations; and two academic
31 specialists, one of whom must be a limnologist. The committee shall
32 select a person to be the committee staff. The staff person selected
33 must come from a public institute associated with a state institution
34 of higher education. The committee shall submit a plan with statutory
35 recommendations, if any, to the legislature by January 1, 1998.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of ecology shall expedite
37 consideration of requests for approval for the application of
38 pesticides, including the use of herbicides such as copper sulfate or

1 diquat, to control nuisance and noxious weeds in lakes managed under
2 chapter 90.24 RCW. Approval for the application of pesticides is
3 subject to compliance with state and federal pesticide laws. The
4 department of ecology shall condition the permits to ensure that
5 migrating juvenile fish within the watershed are not significantly
6 affected. The department of ecology may require applicators to provide
7 reasonable notification to shoreline residents before application and
8 to post signs describing swimming and fishing restrictions. The
9 department of ecology may condition the permit on a requirement that
10 there will be a biennial sampling, beginning January 1998, by the local
11 health department to assess the biological effects of pesticide
12 treatments. This section shall expire April 1, 1998.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of thirty thousand dollars, or as
14 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year
15 ending June 30, 1997, from the general fund to the legislative budget
16 committee, to contract with the selected state institution of higher
17 education for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
20 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
21 effect immediately.

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