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SENATE BILL 5556

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen, Long and Winsley

Read first time 01/31/97. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Environment.

1 AN ACT Relating to illegitimate autobody repair operations;  
2 creating new sections; providing an effective 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 has discovered that there  
6 are a significant amount of illegitimate autobody repair operations  
7 that are not in compliance with state law. Their illegal activities of  
8 improperly spraying and dumping toxic paint has a significant effect on  
9 our state's public health and safety. Furthermore, many of these  
10 illegitimate shops are not qualified to repair vehicles which makes  
11 them unsafe to drive. The legislature intends to discover illegitimate  
12 autobody repair operations and bring them into compliance with state  
13 law or, alternatively, to require a cease in operations.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Beginning July 1, 1997, and ending July  
15 1, 1999, the department of ecology shall establish an illegitimate  
16 autobody operations enforcement project. The department shall assign  
17 three full-time investigators to discover and react to illegitimate  
18 autobody repair operations. As part of their duties, the investigators

1 shall issue fines, work with local enforcement agencies, and ensure  
2 that the illegitimate operations are either brought into compliance or  
3 shut down.

4 (2) The investigators shall focus on autobody repair operations  
5 that are illegitimate. It is not the intent of this act to discover  
6 violations in autobody repair operations that are licensed and known by  
7 the state as a legitimate autobody repair operation.

8 (3) The illegitimate autobody repair operations enforcement project  
9 shall make quarterly presentation of its findings and activities to an  
10 oversight committee. The department of ecology shall organize the  
11 committee. The committee must be comprised of one member of each  
12 caucus of the legislature, one member of each of the state's regional  
13 air quality agencies, and three representatives of the autobody  
14 industry, appointed by the director of ecology. The oversight  
15 committee only serves as a guidance council. The department shall  
16 manage the enforcement project.

17 (4) The 1999 legislature shall review the illegitimate autobody  
18 operations enforcement project and determine whether to continue the  
19 project beyond the July 1, 1999, termination date.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
22 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
23 July 1, 1997.

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