

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6248

As Passed Senate, February 11, 2006

Title: An act relating to drainage and diking works.

Brief Description: Requiring the department of transportation to reimburse drainage and diking districts for maintenance and repairs to drainage facilities if the department does not respond to written notice by the districts.

Sponsors: Senators Haugen, Benson, Shin and Sheldon.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 1/23/06, 1/26/06 [DP].

Passed Senate: 2/11/06, 44-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Jacobsen, Vice Chair; Poulsen, Vice Chair; Benson, Ranking Minority Member; Benton, Berkey, Eide, Esser, Finkbeiner, Kastama, Mulliken, Oke, Sheldon, Spanel, Swecker and Weinstein.

Staff: Hayley Gamble (786-7452)

Background: Drainage and diking districts exist around the state as taxing districts and oversight bodies which create, maintain, and manage specific areas that include significant drainage or dike infrastructures. Drainage facilities include dikes, dams, ditches, drains, and outlets. Individual drainage facilities need to be maintained to help ensure viability of the entire drainage system, and those adjacent to roads help protect roads from flooding and other damage.

Under current law, any drainage facilities that are located on land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation (DOT) are required to be maintained by DOT.

Summary of Bill: If the commissioners of any drainage or diking district determine that repair or maintenance is required on a drainage facility under the jurisdiction of the DOT, they may send a written notice to DOT requesting that the repair or maintenance be completed. If the specified repair or maintenance is not conducted within seven days of DOT receiving the notice, the district commissioners may independently make the repair or complete the maintenance.

The DOT must reimburse the district for all reasonable costs incurred by the district associated with the repair or maintenance.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Drainage and diking districts would like to be able to get drainage facilities needing repair or maintenance, and located within WSDOT jurisdiction, addressed in a timely manner.

Testimony Against: None.

Who Testified: PRO: Senator Haugen, bill sponsor.

House Amendment: The House amendment provides DOT with fourteen days, rather than seven days, to respond to local government requests to make necessary repairs or maintenance on any drainage facilities.