
SENATE BILL 6666

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Winsley, Haugen, Fairley, Swecker, McDonald, Fraser, McAuliffe and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/23/96. Referred to Committee on Ecology & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to nuisance aquatic weeds; creating new sections;
2 and declaring an emergency.

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

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

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is created a legislative committee to
13 develop a Washington state lake health plan. The committee will
14 address long-term solutions, especially funding concerns, to deal with
15 these urban lake problems. The committee consists of the chair and
16 ranking minority member of the senate agriculture and agricultural
17 trade and development, ecology and parks, and government operations
18 committees, and the house of representatives agriculture and ecology,

1 natural resources, and government operations committees. The committee
2 must also include one representative each from the departments of
3 ecology, natural resources, and agriculture, and one county and one
4 city representative. The committee must submit a plan to the
5 legislature by January 1, 1998.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Until the legislative committee created in
7 section 2 of this act develops long-term recommendations and funding
8 solutions for the urban lake problems described in section 1 of this
9 act, the department of ecology must permit the application of
10 pesticides to control nuisance weeds in lakes managed under chapter
11 90.24 RCW. This includes consideration of the use of herbicides such
12 as copper sulfate or diquat. The department of ecology may condition
13 the permit on a requirement that there be a biennial sampling,
14 beginning January 1998, by the local health department to assess the
15 biological effects of pesticide treatments.

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

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