

2 **SHB 1411 - H AMD 0267 Adopted 2-18-02**

3 By Representative

4

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 "Sec. 1. RCW 70.105D.010 and 1994 c 254 s 1 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 (1) Each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a  
10 healthful environment, and each person has a responsibility to preserve  
11 and enhance that right. The beneficial stewardship of the land, air,  
12 and waters of the state is a solemn obligation of the present  
13 generation for the benefit of future generations.

14 (2) A healthful environment is now threatened by the irresponsible  
15 use and disposal of hazardous substances. There are hundreds of  
16 hazardous waste sites in this state, and more will be created if  
17 current waste practices continue. Hazardous waste sites threaten the  
18 state's water resources, including those used for public drinking  
19 water. Many of our municipal landfills are current or potential  
20 hazardous waste sites and present serious threats to human health and  
21 environment. The costs of eliminating these threats in many cases are  
22 beyond the financial means of our local governments and ratepayers.  
23 The main purpose of chapter 2, Laws of 1989 is to raise sufficient  
24 funds to clean up all hazardous waste sites and to prevent the creation  
25 of future hazards due to improper disposal of toxic wastes into the  
26 state's land and waters.

27 (3) Many farmers and small business owners who have followed the  
28 law with respect to their uses of pesticides and other chemicals  
29 nonetheless may face devastating economic consequences because their  
30 uses have contaminated the environment or the water supplies of their  
31 neighbors. With a source of funds, the state may assist these farmers  
32 and business owners, as well as those persons who sustain damages, such  
33 as the loss of their drinking water supplies, as a result of the  
34 contamination.

35 (4) It is in the public's interest to efficiently use our finite  
36 land base, to integrate our land use planning policies with our clean-

1 up policies, and to clean up and reuse contaminated industrial  
2 properties in order to minimize industrial development pressures on  
3 undeveloped land and to make clean land available for future social  
4 use.

5 (5) Because it is often difficult or impossible to allocate  
6 responsibility among persons liable for hazardous waste sites and  
7 because it is essential that sites be cleaned up well and  
8 expeditiously, each responsible person should be liable jointly and  
9 severally.

10 (6) Because releases of hazardous substances can adversely affect  
11 the health and welfare of the public, the environment, and property  
12 values, it is in the public interest that affected communities be  
13 notified of where releases of hazardous substances have occurred and  
14 what is being done to clean them up.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 70.105D  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, any owner  
18 or operator of a facility that is actively transitioning from operating  
19 under federal laws to operating under the provisions of this chapter,  
20 who has information that a hazardous substance has been released to the  
21 environment at the owner of operator's facility that may be a threat to  
22 human health or the environment, shall issue a notice to the department  
23 within ninety days. The notice shall include a description of any  
24 remedial actions planned, completed, or underway.

25 (2) The notice must be posted in a visible, publicly accessible  
26 location on the facility, to remain in place until all remedial actions  
27 except confirmational monitoring are complete.

28 (3) After receiving the notice from the facility, the department  
29 must review the notice and mail a summary of its contents, along with  
30 any additional information deemed appropriate by the department, to:

31 (a) Each residence and landowner of a residence whose property  
32 boundary is within three hundred feet of the boundary of the property  
33 where the release occurred or if the release occurred from a pipeline  
34 or other facility that does not have a property boundary, within three  
35 hundred feet of the actual release;

36 (b) Each business and landowner of a business whose property  
37 boundary is within three hundred feet of the boundary of the property  
38 where the release occurred;

1 (c) Each residence, landowner of a residence, and business with a  
2 property boundary within the area where hazardous substances have come  
3 to be located as a result of the release;

4 (d) Neighborhood associations and community organizations  
5 representing an area within one mile of the facility and recognized by  
6 the city or county with jurisdiction within this area;

7 (e) The city, county, and local health district with jurisdiction  
8 within the areas described in (a), (b), and (c) of this subsection; and

9 (f) The department of health.

10 (4) A notice produced by a facility shall provide the following  
11 information:

12 (a) The common name of any hazardous substances released and, if  
13 available, the chemical abstract service registry number of these  
14 substances;

15 (b) The address of the facility where the release occurred;

16 (c) The date the release was discovered;

17 (d) The cause and date of the release, if known;

18 (e) The remedial actions being taken or planned to address the  
19 release;

20 (f) The potential health and environmental effects of the hazardous  
21 substances released; and

22 (g) The name, address, and telephone number of a contact person at  
23 the facility where the release occurred.

24 (5) The following releases are exempt from the notification  
25 requirements in this section:

26 (a) Application of pesticides and fertilizers for their intended  
27 purposes and according to label instructions;

28 (b) The lawful and nonnegligent use of hazardous household  
29 substances by a natural person for personal or domestic purposes;

30 (c) The discharge of hazardous substances in compliance with  
31 permits issued under chapter 70.94, 90.48, or 90.56 RCW;

32 (d) De minimis amounts of any hazardous substance leaked or  
33 discharged onto the ground;

34 (e) The discharge of hazardous substances to a permitted waste  
35 water treatment facility or from a permitted waste water collection  
36 system or treatment facility as allowed by a facility's discharge  
37 permit;

38 (f) Any releases originating from a single-family or multifamily  
39 residence, including but not limited to the discharge of oil from a

1 residential home heating oil tank with the capacity of five hundred  
2 gallons or less;

3 (g) Any spill on a public road, street, or highway or to surface  
4 waters of the state that has previously been reported to the United  
5 States coast guard and the state division of emergency management under  
6 chapter 90.56 RCW;

7 (h) Any release of hazardous substances to the air;

8 (i) Any release that occurs on agricultural land, including land  
9 used to grow trees for the commercial production of wood or wood fiber,  
10 that is at least five acres in size, when the effects of the release do  
11 not come within three hundred feet of any property boundary. For the  
12 purposes of this subsection, agricultural land includes incidental uses  
13 that are compatible with agricultural or silvicultural purposes,  
14 including, but not limited to, land used for the housing of the owner,  
15 operator, or employees, structures used for the storage or repair of  
16 equipment, machinery, and chemicals, and any paths or roads on the  
17 land; and

18 (j) Releases that, before the effective date of this section, have  
19 been previously reported to the department, or remediated in compliance  
20 with a settlement agreement under RCW 70.105D.040(4) or enforcement  
21 order or agreed order issued under this chapter or have been the  
22 subject of an opinion from the department under RCW 70.105D.030(1)(i)  
23 that no further remedial action is required.

24 An exemption from the notification requirements of this section  
25 does not exempt the owner or operator of a facility from any other  
26 notification or reporting requirements, or imply a release from  
27 liability under this chapter.

28 (6) If a significant segment of the community to be notified speaks  
29 a language other than English, an appropriate translation of the notice  
30 must also be posted and mailed to the department in accordance with the  
31 requirements of this section.

32 (7) The facility where the release occurred is responsible for  
33 reimbursing the department within thirty days for the actual costs  
34 associated with the production and mailing of the notices under this  
35 section.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.105D.030 and 2001 c 291 s 401 are each amended to  
37 read as follows:

1 (1) The department may exercise the following powers in addition to  
2 any other powers granted by law:

3 (a) Investigate, provide for investigating, or require potentially  
4 liable persons to investigate any releases or threatened releases of  
5 hazardous substances, including but not limited to inspecting,  
6 sampling, or testing to determine the nature or extent of any release  
7 or threatened release. If there is a reasonable basis to believe that  
8 a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance may exist, the  
9 department's authorized employees, agents, or contractors may enter  
10 upon any property and conduct investigations. The department shall  
11 give reasonable notice before entering property unless an emergency  
12 prevents such notice. The department may by subpoena require the  
13 attendance or testimony of witnesses and the production of documents or  
14 other information that the department deems necessary;

15 (b) Conduct, provide for conducting, or require potentially liable  
16 persons to conduct remedial actions (including investigations under (a)  
17 of this subsection) to remedy releases or threatened releases of  
18 hazardous substances. In carrying out such powers, the department's  
19 authorized employees, agents, or contractors may enter upon property.  
20 The department shall give reasonable notice before entering property  
21 unless an emergency prevents such notice. In conducting, providing for,  
22 or requiring remedial action, the department shall give preference to  
23 permanent solutions to the maximum extent practicable and shall provide  
24 for or require adequate monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the  
25 remedial action;

26 (c) Indemnify contractors retained by the department for carrying  
27 out investigations and remedial actions, but not for any contractor's  
28 reckless or wilful misconduct;

29 (d) Carry out all state programs authorized under the federal  
30 cleanup law and the federal resource, conservation, and recovery act,  
31 42 U.S.C. Sec. 6901 et seq., as amended;

32 (e) Classify substances as hazardous substances for purposes of RCW  
33 70.105D.020(7) and classify substances and products as hazardous  
34 substances for purposes of RCW 82.21.020(1);

35 (f) Issue orders or enter into consent decrees or agreed orders  
36 that include, or issue written opinions under (i) of this subsection  
37 that may be conditioned upon, deed restrictions where necessary to  
38 protect human health and the environment from a release or threatened  
39 release of a hazardous substance from a facility. Prior to

1 establishing a deed restriction under this subsection, the department  
2 shall notify and seek comment from a city or county department with  
3 land use planning authority for real property subject to a deed  
4 restriction;

5 (g) Enforce the application of permanent and effective  
6 institutional controls that are necessary for a remedial action to be  
7 protective of human health and the environment and the notification  
8 requirements established in section 2 of this act, and impose penalties  
9 for violations of that section consistent with RCW 70.105D.050;

10 (h) Require holders to conduct remedial actions necessary to abate  
11 an imminent or substantial endangerment pursuant to RCW  
12 70.105D.020(12)(b)(ii)(C);

13 (i) Provide informal advice and assistance to persons regarding the  
14 administrative and technical requirements of this chapter. This may  
15 include site-specific advice to persons who are conducting or otherwise  
16 interested in independent remedial actions. Any such advice or  
17 assistance shall be advisory only, and shall not be binding on the  
18 department. As a part of providing this advice and assistance for  
19 independent remedial actions, the department may prepare written  
20 opinions regarding whether the independent remedial actions or  
21 proposals for those actions meet the substantive requirements of this  
22 chapter or whether the department believes further remedial action is  
23 necessary at the facility. The department may collect, from persons  
24 requesting advice and assistance, the costs incurred by the department  
25 in providing such advice and assistance; however, the department shall,  
26 where appropriate, waive collection of costs in order to provide an  
27 appropriate level of technical assistance in support of public  
28 participation. The state, the department, and officers and employees  
29 of the state are immune from all liability, and no cause of action of  
30 any nature may arise from any act or omission in providing, or failing  
31 to provide, informal advice and assistance; and

32 (j) Take any other actions necessary to carry out the provisions of  
33 this chapter, including the power to adopt rules under chapter 34.05  
34 RCW.

35 (2) The department shall immediately implement all provisions of  
36 this chapter to the maximum extent practicable, including investigative  
37 and remedial actions where appropriate. The department shall adopt,  
38 and thereafter enforce, rules under chapter 34.05 RCW to:

1 (a) Provide for public participation, including at least (i) public  
2 notice of the development of investigative plans or remedial plans for  
3 releases or threatened releases and (ii) concurrent public notice of  
4 all compliance orders, agreed orders, enforcement orders, or notices of  
5 violation;

6 (b) Establish a hazard ranking system for hazardous waste sites;

7 (c) Provide for requiring the reporting by an owner or operator of  
8 releases of hazardous substances to the environment that may be a  
9 threat to human health or the environment within ninety days of  
10 discovery, including such exemptions from reporting as the department  
11 deems appropriate, however this requirement shall not modify any  
12 existing requirements provided for under other laws;

13 (d) Establish reasonable deadlines not to exceed ninety days for  
14 initiating an investigation of a hazardous waste site after the  
15 department receives notice or otherwise receives information that the  
16 site may pose a threat to human health or the environment and other  
17 reasonable deadlines for remedying releases or threatened releases at  
18 the site;

19 (e) Publish and periodically update minimum cleanup standards for  
20 remedial actions at least as stringent as the cleanup standards under  
21 section 121 of the federal cleanup law, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9621, and at  
22 least as stringent as all applicable state and federal laws, including  
23 health-based standards under state and federal law; and

24 (f) Apply industrial clean-up standards at industrial properties.  
25 Rules adopted under this subsection shall ensure that industrial  
26 properties cleaned up to industrial standards cannot be converted to  
27 nonindustrial uses without approval from the department. The  
28 department may require that a property cleaned up to industrial  
29 standards is cleaned up to a more stringent applicable standard as a  
30 condition of conversion to a nonindustrial use. Industrial clean-up  
31 standards may not be applied to industrial properties where hazardous  
32 substances remaining at the property after remedial action pose a  
33 threat to human health or the environment in adjacent nonindustrial  
34 areas.

35 (3) Before November 1st of each even-numbered year, the department  
36 shall develop, with public notice and hearing, and submit to the ways  
37 and means and appropriate standing environmental committees of the  
38 senate and house of representatives a ranked list of projects and  
39 expenditures recommended for appropriation from both the state and

1 local toxics control accounts. The department shall also provide the  
2 legislature and the public each year with an accounting of the  
3 department's activities supported by appropriations from the state  
4 toxics control account, including a list of known hazardous waste sites  
5 and their hazard rankings, actions taken and planned at each site, how  
6 the department is meeting its top two management priorities under RCW  
7 70.105.150, and all funds expended under this chapter.

8 (4) The department shall establish a scientific advisory board to  
9 render advice to the department with respect to the hazard ranking  
10 system, cleanup standards, remedial actions, deadlines for remedial  
11 actions, monitoring, the classification of substances as hazardous  
12 substances for purposes of RCW 70.105D.020(7) and the classification of  
13 substances or products as hazardous substances for purposes of RCW  
14 82.21.020(1). The board shall consist of five independent members to  
15 serve staggered three-year terms. No members may be employees of the  
16 department. Members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as  
17 provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

18 (5) The department shall establish a program to identify potential  
19 hazardous waste sites and to encourage persons to provide information  
20 about hazardous waste sites.

21 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.105D.050 and 1994 c 257 s 12 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 (1) With respect to any release, or threatened release, for which  
24 the department does not conduct or contract for conducting remedial  
25 action and for which the department believes remedial action is in the  
26 public interest, the director shall issue orders or agreed orders  
27 requiring potentially liable persons to provide the remedial action.  
28 Any liable person who refuses, without sufficient cause, to comply with  
29 an order or agreed order of the director is liable in an action brought  
30 by the attorney general for:

31 (a) Up to three times the amount of any costs incurred by the state  
32 as a result of the party's refusal to comply; and

33 (b) A civil penalty of up to twenty-five thousand dollars for each  
34 day the party refuses to comply.

35 The treble damages and civil penalty under this subsection apply to all  
36 recovery actions filed on or after March 1, 1989.

37 (2) Any person who incurs costs complying with an order issued  
38 under subsection (1) of this section may petition the department for

1 reimbursement of those costs. If the department refuses to grant  
2 reimbursement, the person may within thirty days thereafter file suit  
3 and recover costs by proving that he or she was not a liable person  
4 under RCW 70.105D.040 and that the costs incurred were reasonable.

5 (3) The attorney general shall seek, by filing an action if  
6 necessary, to recover the amounts spent by the department for  
7 investigative and remedial actions and orders, and agreed orders,  
8 including amounts spent prior to March 1, 1989.

9 (4) The attorney general may bring an action to secure such relief  
10 as is necessary to protect human health and the environment under this  
11 chapter.

12 (5)(a) Any person may commence a civil action to compel the  
13 department to perform any nondiscretionary duty under this chapter. At  
14 least thirty days before commencing the action, the person must give  
15 notice of intent to sue, unless a substantial endangerment exists. The  
16 court may award attorneys' fees and other costs to the prevailing party  
17 in the action.

18 (b) Civil actions under this section and RCW 70.105D.060 may be  
19 brought in the superior court of Thurston county or of the county in  
20 which the release or threatened release exists.

21 (6) Any person who fails to provide notification of releases  
22 consistent with section 2 of this act or who submits false information  
23 is liable in an action brought by the attorney general for a civil  
24 penalty of up to five thousand dollars per day for each day the party  
25 refuses to comply.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any provision of this act or its  
27 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
28 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
29 persons or circumstances is not affected.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 through 4 of this act take effect  
31 January 1, 2003."

32 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Limits the application of the bill to facilities that are transitioning from federal to state oversight.

--- END ---