

SB 6035-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Authorizes the creation of beach management districts.

Provides that beach management districts addressing the control and removal of aquatic plants or vegetation must develop a plan for this activity, and such a plan must be approved by all appropriate federal, state, and local agencies.

Requires plans for the control and removal of aquatic plants or vegetation to, to the greatest extent possible, meet the following requirements: (1) Avoid the excess removal of native vegetation and organisms, whether alive or dead;

(2) Avoid management activities that will result in the compaction of beach sand, gravel, and substrate;

(3) Disposal of beach material should be done in a manner that would not recontaminate other areas in the beach environment; and

(4) All natural habitat features on the beach larger than twelve inches in diameter including trees, stumps, logs, and large rocks must be retained on the beach.

Requires the department of ecology to provide technical assistance to community groups and county legislative authorities requesting assistance with the development of beach management programs.

Appropriates the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, from the general fund to the department of ecology for the purposes of providing technical assistance to community groups and county legislative authorities requesting assistance with the development of beach management plans, program administration, and identification and prioritization of beaches and near shore areas with decomposing seaweed presenting public health and water quality issues.

Appropriates the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the department of ecology for the purposes of providing technical assistance to community groups and county legislative authorities requesting assistance with the development of beach management plans, program administration, and the removal of seaweed documented and identified as creating public health or water quality issues from beaches or near shore areas located within at least one mile of a ferry terminal, in the most populated county of the state.