
SENATE BILL 6516

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Keiser, Ericksen, Braun, and Chase

Read first time 01/30/14. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a joint legislative task force to study
2 financing options for water supply, flood control, and storm water
3 projects; amending RCW 43.155.050; creating a new section; and making
4 an appropriation.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that probable
7 changes in climate and cycles of drought and storms, population growth
8 and required development, coupled with aging and inadequate water
9 supply and flood control infrastructure present significant risks to
10 the health and safety of our residents and visitors, the sustained
11 growth of our economy, and preservation and protection of our natural
12 resources.

13 (2) A joint legislative task force on financing options for water
14 supply, flood control, and storm water projects is established. The
15 task force and its various work groups must review:

16 (a) The risks from inadequate water supply, flood control, and
17 storm water systems in various communities and water basins of the
18 state;

1 (b) The advances in water supply, flood control, and storm water
2 technology, engineering, and ecosystem management that offer reliable,
3 affordable, and long-lasting benefits to the health and safety of
4 residents, the sustainability of regional and state economic growth,
5 and the protection and preservation of the state's natural resources;

6 (c) Financing options for water supply, flood control, and storm
7 water projects that offer reliable, affordable, and long-lasting
8 benefits to the health and safety of residents, the sustainability of
9 regional and state economic growth, and the protection and preservation
10 of the state's natural resources. Financing options must identify
11 options for incurring debt at the lowest cost, and possible state and
12 local revenues necessary to service that debt without diverting state
13 general funds;

14 (d) Governance options for setting priorities for financing water
15 supply, flood control, and storm water projects and establishing state
16 and local policies to ensure that the benefits from such projects:

17 (i) Are not eroded by a failure to adequately maintain such
18 projects; or

19 (ii) Diminish by local decisions that exacerbate risks the project
20 is intended to mitigate.

21 (3)(a) The joint legislative task force on financing options for
22 water supply, flood control, and storm water projects shall consist of
23 eight members, two legislative members each, one from each major
24 caucus, from the house of representatives capital budget committee and
25 appropriate policy committee, appointed by the speaker of the house of
26 representatives, and two members each, one from each major caucus, from
27 the senate ways and means committee and appropriate policy committee,
28 appointed by the president of the senate.

29 (b) The governor or the governor's representative may serve on the
30 task force. The governor must select four task force members
31 representing local governments, with two members representing
32 communities at risk from scarce water supplies and two representing
33 communities at risk from flooding and storm water control problems.

34 (c) The office of the state treasurer, the office of financial
35 management, the departments of ecology, health, agriculture, fish and
36 wildlife, and commerce shall cooperate with the task force and provide
37 leadership and staff support to the various work groups established
38 under subsection (4) of this section.

1 (d) The task force shall coordinate with the appropriate standing
2 committees of the legislature and may consult with other interested
3 parties, as may be appropriate, for technical advice and assistance.

4 (e) The task force shall select a chair from among its legislative
5 membership.

6 (4) The task force must establish expert work groups to
7 investigate, at a minimum, each of the topics in subsection (2)(a),
8 (b), (c), and (d) of this section. Work group members may be selected
9 for their relevant expertise from state and local government agencies,
10 state universities, and knowledgeable private sector professionals.
11 Staff support for the task force must be provided by the house of
12 representatives office of program research and the senate committee
13 services. Staff support for the various work groups must be provided
14 by the involved state agencies.

15 (5) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for
16 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
17 members of the task force or work groups, except those representing
18 state or local government agencies, are entitled to be reimbursed for
19 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

20 (6) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the
21 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
22 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
23 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their
24 successor committees. The budget and expenses of the various work
25 groups established under subsection (4) of this section must be managed
26 by the office of financial management in consultation with the task
27 force.

28 (7) The task force must report its findings and recommendations to
29 the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2015.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of one million dollars, or as much
31 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal biennium
32 ending June 30, 2015, from the general fund to the office of financial
33 management for the purposes of this act.

34 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.155.050 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 s 983 are each
35 amended to read as follows:

36 The public works assistance account is hereby established in the

1 state treasury. Money may be placed in the public works assistance
2 account from the proceeds of bonds when authorized by the legislature
3 or from any other lawful source. Money in the public works assistance
4 account shall be used to make loans and to give financial guarantees to
5 local governments for public works projects. Moneys in the account may
6 also be appropriated to provide for state match requirements under
7 federal law for projects and activities conducted and financed by the
8 board under the drinking water assistance account. Not more than
9 fifteen percent of the biennial capital budget appropriation to the
10 public works board from this account may be expended or obligated for
11 preconstruction loans, emergency loans, or loans for capital facility
12 planning under this chapter; of this amount, not more than ten percent
13 of the biennial capital budget appropriation may be expended for
14 emergency loans and not more than one percent of the biennial capital
15 budget appropriation may be expended for capital facility planning
16 loans. During the 2011-2013 and 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, the
17 legislature may transfer from the public works assistance account to
18 the general fund, the water pollution control revolving account, and
19 the drinking water assistance account such amounts as reflect the
20 excess fund balance of the account. During the 2011-2013 fiscal
21 biennium, the legislature may appropriate moneys from the account for
22 economic development, innovation, and export grants, including
23 brownfields; main street improvement grants; and the loan program
24 consolidation board. During the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, the
25 legislature may transfer from the public works assistance account to
26 the education legacy trust account such amounts as specified by the
27 legislature. During the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, the legislature may
28 appropriate moneys from the account to fund necessary expenses of the
29 task force established in section 1 of this act and the appropriation
30 specified in section 2, chapter . . ., Laws of 2014 (this act).

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