
HOUSE BILL 1010

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Shea, Taylor, Holy, Short, McCaslin, Pike, Haler, and Young

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1 AN ACT Relating to directing the department of ecology to submit
2 an annual report to the legislature detailing the department's
3 participation in interagency agreements; amending RCW 43.21A.150; and
4 creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that department of
7 ecology pursues its mission of environmental protection within a
8 complicated framework of national, state, and local authorities and
9 responsibilities, and that the department of ecology's roles within
10 this framework are not always readily intelligible to the public.
11 Furthermore, the legislature finds that promoting the transparency of
12 department of ecology activities will bolster the understanding and
13 trust in the agency held by legislators and the Washingtonians they
14 represent. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to require
15 the department of ecology to create an annual report that details the
16 agency's participation in interagency agreements for the purposes of
17 improving public understanding of the extent and implications of
18 those agreements.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.21A.150 and 1970 ex.s. c 62 s 15 are each amended
20 to read as follows:

1 (1) The director, whenever it is lawful and feasible to do so,
2 shall consult and cooperate with the federal government, as well as
3 with other states and Canadian provinces, in the study and control of
4 environmental problems. On behalf of the department, the director is
5 authorized to accept, receive, disburse, and administer grants or
6 other funds or gifts from any source, including private individuals
7 or agencies, the federal government, and other public agencies, for
8 the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

9 (2)(a) Consistent with RCW 43.01.036, beginning December 1, 2017,
10 the director shall submit a report to the legislature by December 1st
11 of each year regarding the current interagency agreements to which
12 the department is a party or in which the department is a
13 participant.

14 (b) The report must include a brief description of the purpose of
15 each agreement, the commitments or obligations to which the agreement
16 binds the department or the state, and an electronic link to the full
17 text of the agreement. The report must include all interagency
18 agreements involving the department and other state agencies, local
19 governments, special purpose districts, the federal government and
20 federal government agencies, and the agencies of other states.

21 (c) Beginning December 1, 2018, the report must:

22 (i) Identify all new interagency agreements that the department
23 has entered into during the year since the previous report was
24 submitted to the legislature under this section; and

25 (ii) Identify all substantive modifications to interagency
26 agreements involving the department since the previous report was
27 submitted to the legislature under this section and include a
28 description of the purpose of the modifications and whether the
29 modifications alter any associated commitments or obligations.

30 (d) For the purposes of this section, the term "interagency
31 agreement" must be construed broadly and includes but is not limited
32 to memoranda of understanding, grant contracts, advisory or
33 nonbinding agreements, and other working arrangements involving
34 department of ecology staff or resources.

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