
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5846

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Senator Roach).

Read first time March 6, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to a sludge study task force; adding new sections
2 to chapter 90.48 RCW; creating new sections; and making an
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) Public concerns are increasing about the expanded use and
7 disposal of municipal sewage sludge. The results of a citizens' sludge
8 "summit" meeting in June 1990 said the greatest need is to find and
9 explore alternatives to current sludge uses.

10 (2) The current primary use of sludge in the state is land
11 application on agricultural and forest lands. Public concerns are
12 focused on the health issues based upon potential impacts on surface
13 and ground water quality from land application. New federal technical
14 standards to protect public health and the environment are due in
15 January 1992.

1 (3) Alternatives to current uses of conventionally treated
2 municipal sludge should be studied in order to broaden the options for
3 the use and management of this resource.

4 (4) A pilot project to field test the study's findings is needed.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A ten-member sludge task force is formed
6 to study alternatives to land application or disposal of conventionally
7 treated municipal sludge. The task force shall:

8 (1) Conduct a literature search to review current and proposed
9 alternative sludge treatment and end-use technologies, including but
10 not be limited to:

- 11 (a) Glassification;
- 12 (b) Incineration;
- 13 (c) Sterilization;
- 14 (d) Chemical stabilization; and
- 15 (e) Composting;

16 (2) Develop a list of commercially available end-use products
17 containing recycled sludge or treatment residues from these alternative
18 technologies, or both, to include, but not be limited to:

- 19 (a) Building materials;
- 20 (b) Soil enrichment;
- 21 (c) Land cover; and
- 22 (d) Paving materials.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sludge task force shall consist
24 of:

25 (a) An equal number of representatives from generators/applicators,
26 environmentalists/regulators and timber/agriculture from each of the
27 following agencies or organizations, selected by their respective
28 secretaries or chairpersons: Department of ecology, department of

1 health, department of natural resources, Puget Sound water quality
2 authority, association of Washington cities, Washington association of
3 counties, regional sludge management committee, and the Washington
4 state association of sewer districts; and

5 (b) Two public members representing the environmental community,
6 selected by the chairpersons of the appropriate legislative committees.

7 The chair will be elected from among the task force members.

8 (2) The department of ecology shall provide administrative support
9 to the sludge task force and consult with a member of the scientific
10 community knowledgeable on sludge management.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sludge task force shall report its
12 findings to the legislature on or before July 1, 1992.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The department shall issue a
14 centennial clean water act grant to fund a pilot project on the task
15 force's selected priority use alternative or alternatives. The pilot
16 project is to be completed by December 1, 1993.

17 (2) The department shall submit a report by July 1, 1994, to the
18 appropriate legislative committees of the pilot project findings, to
19 include, but not be limited to:

20 (a) Health impacts;

21 (b) Recyclability;

22 (c) Economic feasibility;

23 (d) Disposal and use options; and

24 (e) Comparative handling costs.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of dollars, or as
26 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
27 ending June 30, 1993, from the centennial clean water fund to the

1 department of ecology for the purposes of sections 2 through 4 of this
2 act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 2 through 4 of this act are
4 each added to chapter 90.48 RCW.