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SENATE BILL 5846

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senator Roach.

Read first time February 26, 1991. Referred to Committee on Environment & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to a sludge study task force; adding new sections  
2 to chapter 90.48 RCW; creating a new section; 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 and a moratorium is necessary on further land application of  
6 conventionally treated municipal sludge until completion of the pilot  
7 project.

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

11 (1) Conduct a literature search to review current and proposed  
12 alternative sludge treatment and end-use technologies, in the priority  
13 listed in this subsection, but not be limited to:

- 14 (a) Glassification;
- 15 (b) Incineration;
- 16 (c) Sterilization;
- 17 (d) Chemical stabilization; and
- 18 (e) Composting;

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

- 22 (a) Building materials;
- 23 (b) Soil enrichment;
- 24 (c) Land cover; and
- 25 (d) Paving materials.

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

1 (a) A representative from each of the following agencies or  
2 organizations, selected by their respective secretaries or  
3 chairpersons: Department of ecology, department of health, department  
4 of natural resources, Puget Sound water quality authority, association  
5 of Washington cities, Washington association of counties, regional  
6 sludge management committee, and the Washington state association of  
7 sewer districts; and

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

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

11 (2) The department of ecology shall provide administrative support  
12 to the sludge task force.

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

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

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

22 (a) Health impacts;

23 (b) Recyclability;

24 (c) Economic feasibility;

25 (d) Disposal and use options; and

26 (e) Comparative handling costs.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**        From the effective date of this act  
2 until July 1, 1994, the land application of conventionally treated  
3 municipal sludge is unlawful.

4        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.**        The sum of ..... dollars, or as  
5 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium  
6 ending June 30, 1993, from the centennial clean water fund to the  
7 department of ecology for the purposes of sections 2 through 4 of this  
8 act.

9        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 8.**        Sections 2 through 4 of this act are  
10 each added to chapter 90.48 RCW.