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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1356**

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**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1993 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Environmental Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives Rust, Horn, Roland and Valle; by request of Department of Health)

Read first time 02/15/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to enforcement of public water system requirements;  
2 amending RCW 70.119A.030, 70.119A.040, and 70.119A.050; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 70.119A RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.119A.030 and 1991 c 304 s 3 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The secretary or his or her designee or the local health  
8 officer may declare a public health emergency. As limited by RCW  
9 70.119A.040, the department may impose penalties for violations of laws  
10 or regulations that are determined to be a public health emergency.

11 (2) As limited by RCW 70.119A.040, the department may impose  
12 penalties for (~~failure to comply with an order of the department, or~~  
13 ~~of an authorized local board of health, when the order:~~

14 ~~(a) Directs any person to stop work on the construction or~~  
15 ~~alteration of a public water system when plans and specifications for~~  
16 ~~the construction or alteration have not been approved as required by~~  
17 ~~the regulations, or when the work is not being done in conformity with~~  
18 ~~approved plans and specifications;~~

1       ~~(b) Requires any person to eliminate a cross-connection to a public~~  
2 ~~water system by a specified time; or~~  
3       ~~(c) Requires any person to cease violating any regulation relating~~  
4 ~~to public water systems, to take specific actions within a specified~~  
5 ~~time to place a public water system in compliance with regulations~~  
6 ~~adopted under chapters 43.20 and 70.119 RCW, to apply for an operating~~  
7 ~~permit as required under RCW 70.119A.110 or to comply with any~~  
8 ~~conditions or requirements imposed as part of an operating permit))~~  
9 violation of laws or rules regulating public water systems and  
10 administered by the department of health.

11       **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.119A.040 and 1990 c 133 s 8 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13       (1)(a) In addition to or as an alternative to any other penalty  
14 ((provided)) or action allowed by law, ((every)) any person who  
15 ((commits any of the acts or omissions in RCW 70.119A.030 shall be  
16 subjected)) violates a law or rule regulating public water systems and  
17 administered by the department of health is subject to a penalty ((in  
18 an amount of not less than five hundred dollars. The maximum penalty  
19 shall be)) of not more than five thousand dollars per day for every  
20 such violation, or, in the case of a violation that has been determined  
21 to be a public health emergency, a penalty of not more than ten  
22 thousand dollars per day for every such violation. Every such  
23 violation shall be a separate and distinct offense. The amount of fine  
24 shall reflect the health significance of the violation and the previous  
25 record of compliance on the part of the public water supplier. In case  
26 of continuing violation, every day's continuance shall be a separate  
27 and distinct violation.

28       (b) In addition, a person who constructs, modifies, or expands a  
29 public water system or who commences the construction, modification, or  
30 expansion of a public water system without first obtaining the required  
31 departmental approval is subject to penalties of not more than five  
32 thousand dollars per service connection, or, in the case of a system  
33 serving a transient population, a penalty of not more than four hundred  
34 dollars per person based on the highest average daily population the  
35 system is anticipated to serve. The total penalty that may be imposed  
36 pursuant to (b) of this subsection is five hundred thousand dollars.

37       (c) Every person who, through an act of commission or omission,  
38 procures, aids, or abets ((in the)) a violation ((shall be)) is

1 considered to have violated the provisions of this section and ((shall  
2 be)) is subject to the penalty provided in this section.

3 (2) The penalty provided for in this section shall be imposed by a  
4 notice in writing to the person against whom the civil ((fine)) penalty  
5 is assessed and shall describe the violation. The notice shall be  
6 personally served in the manner of service of a summons in a civil  
7 action or in a manner that shows proof of receipt. A penalty imposed  
8 by this section is due twenty-eight days after receipt of notice unless  
9 application for ((remission or mitigation is made as provided in  
10 subsection (3) of this section or unless application for)) an  
11 adjudicative proceeding is filed as provided in subsection ((+(4))) (3)  
12 of this section.

13 (3) ((Within fourteen days after the notice is received, the person  
14 incurring the penalty may apply in writing to the department for the  
15 remission or mitigation of such penalty. Upon receipt of the  
16 application, the department may remit or mitigate the penalty upon  
17 whatever terms the department in its discretion deems proper, giving  
18 consideration to the degree of hazard associated with the violation,  
19 provided the department deems such remission or mitigation to be in the  
20 best interests of carrying out the purposes of this chapter. The  
21 department shall not mitigate the fines below the minimum penalty  
22 prescribed in subsection (1) of this section. The department shall  
23 have authority to ascertain the facts regarding all such applications  
24 in such reasonable manner as it may deem proper. When an application  
25 for remission or mitigation is made, a penalty incurred under this  
26 section is due twenty-eight days after receipt of the notice setting  
27 forth the disposition of the application, unless an application for an  
28 adjudicative proceeding to contest the disposition is filed as provided  
29 in subsection (4) of this section.

30 ((+(4))) Within twenty-eight days after notice is received, the person  
31 incurring the penalty may file an application for an adjudicative  
32 proceeding and may pursue subsequent review as provided in chapter  
33 34.05 RCW and applicable rules of the department or board of health.

34 ((+(5))) (4) A penalty imposed by a final administrative order  
35 ((after an adjudicative proceeding)) is due upon service of the final  
36 administrative order. A person who fails to pay a penalty assessed by  
37 a final administrative order within thirty days of service of the final  
38 administrative order shall pay, in addition to the amount of the  
39 penalty, interest at the rate of one percent of the unpaid balance of

1 the assessed penalty for each month or part of a month that the penalty  
2 remains unpaid, commencing with the month in which the notice of  
3 penalty was served.

4 (5) A person who institutes proceedings for judicial review of a  
5 final administrative order assessing a civil penalty under this chapter  
6 shall place the full amount of the penalty in an interest bearing  
7 account in the registry of the reviewing court. At the conclusion of  
8 the proceeding the court shall, as appropriate, enter a judgment on  
9 behalf of the department and order that the judgment be satisfied to  
10 the extent possible from moneys paid into the registry of the court or  
11 shall enter a judgment in favor of the person appealing the penalty  
12 assessment and order return of the moneys paid into the registry of the  
13 court together with accrued interest to the person appealing.

14 (6) ((The attorney general may bring an action in the name of the  
15 department in the superior court of Thurston county, or of any county  
16 in which such violator may do business, to collect a penalty.

17 (7)) If no appeal is taken from a final administrative order  
18 assessing a civil penalty under this chapter, the department may file  
19 a certified copy of the final administrative order with the clerk of  
20 the superior court in which the public water system is located or in  
21 Thurston county, and the clerk shall enter judgment in the name of the  
22 department and in the amount of the penalty assessed in the final  
23 administrative order.

24 (7) A judgment entered under subsection (5) or (6) of this section  
25 shall have the same force and effect as, and shall be subject to all of  
26 the provisions of law relating to, a judgment in a civil action, and  
27 may be enforced in the same manner as any other judgment of the court  
28 in which it is entered.

29 (8) All penalties imposed under this section shall be payable to  
30 the state treasury and credited to the ((general fund)) safe drinking  
31 water account established under RCW 70.119A.120.

32 **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.119A.050 and 1989 c 422 s 8 are each amended to  
33 read as follows:

34 Each local board of health that is enforcing the regulations under  
35 an agreement with the department allocating state and local  
36 responsibility is authorized to impose and collect civil penalties for  
37 violations within the area of its responsibility under the same  
38 limitations and requirements imposed upon the department by RCW

1 70.119A.030 and 70.119A.040, except that judgment shall be entered in  
2 the name of the local board of health and penalties shall be placed  
3 into the general fund of the county, city, or town operating the local  
4 board of health(~~(, and the prosecuting attorney, or city, or town~~  
5 ~~attorney shall bring the actions to collect the unpaid penalties)~~).

6 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 70.119A  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in (b) of this subsection, the  
9 secretary or his or her designee shall have the right to enter a  
10 premises under the control of a public water system at reasonable times  
11 with prior notification in order to determine compliance with laws and  
12 rules administered by the department of health to test, inspect, or  
13 sample features of a public water system and inspect, copy, or  
14 photograph monitoring equipment or other features of a public water  
15 system, or records required to be kept under laws or rules regulating  
16 public water systems.

17 (b) The secretary or his or her designee need not give prior  
18 notification to enter a premises under (a) of this subsection if the  
19 purpose of the entry is to ensure compliance by the public water system  
20 with a prior order of the department or if the secretary or the  
21 secretary's designee has reasonable cause to believe the public water  
22 system is violating the law and poses a serious threat to public health  
23 and safety.

24 (2) The secretary or his or her designee may apply for an  
25 administrative search warrant to a court official authorized to issue  
26 a criminal search warrant. An administrative search warrant may be  
27 issued for the purposes of inspecting or examining property, buildings,  
28 premises, place, books, records, or other physical evidence, or  
29 conducting tests or taking samples. The warrant shall be issued upon  
30 probable cause. It is sufficient probable cause to show any of the  
31 following:

32 (a) The inspection, examination, test, or sampling is pursuant to  
33 a general administrative plan to determine compliance with laws or  
34 rules administered by the department;

35 (b) The secretary or his or her designee has reason to believe that  
36 a violation of a law or rule administered by the department has  
37 occurred, is occurring, or may occur; or

1 (c) The secretary or his or her designee has been refused access to  
2 the property, buildings, premises, place, books, records, or physical  
3 evidence, or has been prevented from conducting tests or taking  
4 samples.

5 (3) The local health officer or the designee of a local health  
6 officer of a local board of health that is enforcing rules regulating  
7 public water systems under an agreement with the department allocating  
8 state and local responsibility is authorized to conduct investigations  
9 and to apply for, obtain, and execute administrative search warrants  
10 necessary to perform the local board's agreed-to responsibilities under  
11 the same limitations and requirements imposed on the department under  
12 this section.

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