
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1442

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By House Committee on Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Representatives R. Johnson, Roland and J. Kohl)

Read first time 02/25/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to integrated and coordinated water resource
2 management; creating new sections; providing an expiration date; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. The legislature finds
6 that there is a need to comprehensively review the policies and
7 institutional framework governing the management, protection, and
8 allocation of water resources in the state of Washington. A
9 comprehensive review of all water resource management programs should
10 be undertaken as soon as possible because of the proliferation of water
11 resource programs and planning requirements at all levels of
12 government. This has caused inconsistent and conflicting management
13 strategies, as well as delays in making vital decisions due to
14 uncertainty. These policy conflicts are occurring against the backdrop
15 of everincreasing demands for water resources.

16 It is therefore the purpose of this act to create a water resources
17 policy commission to comprehensively review the water resource
18 management programs in the state and to make recommendations for
19 improvement and implementation of management decisions. These

1 recommendations should be considered by all citizens having an interest
2 in water resources and should provide the foundation for fundamental
3 water resource management reform.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** COMMISSION CREATED. (1) There is created
5 the Washington water resources policy commission. The commission shall
6 be comprised of fifteen members as follows:

7 (a) The governor or the governor's representative;

8 (b) Three members of the house of representatives: The chair of
9 the house agriculture and rural development committee, the chair of the
10 house natural resources and parks committee, and the minority leader or
11 his or her designee;

12 (c) Three members of the senate: The chair of the senate ecology
13 and parks committee, the chair of the senate energy and utilities
14 committee, and the minority leader or his or her designee;

15 (d) Six members, appointed by the governor, to represent the
16 following interests:

17 (i) Agriculture;

18 (ii) Local government;

19 (iii) Environmental organizations;

20 (iv) Business;

21 (v) Fisheries and wildlife;

22 (vi) Utilities; and

23 (e) Two members, appointed by the governor, to represent federally
24 recognized Indian tribes.

25 (2) The commission shall convene at the call of the governor under
26 section 4 of this act, and the governor, or his or her representative
27 shall be the chair.

28 (3) The governor shall provide for the staff of the commission.
29 Whenever practicable existing employees of state government should be
30 detailed on a temporary basis to assist in staffing the commission.
31 The governor, the commissioner of public lands, and the attorney
32 general shall cooperate in assuring the assignment of staff having
33 expertise in the matters under review by the commission.

34 (4) Per diem compensation shall be provided to the members
35 appointed under subsection (1)(d) of this section pursuant to RCW
36 43.03.240.

1 (5) The governor shall make the appointments required under
2 subsection (1)(d) of this section no later than ninety days following
3 the effective date of this act.

4 (6) Except as specifically provided in this act, the commission
5 shall determine the procedures for conducting the commission's
6 activities. In any report or recommendations to the governor and
7 legislature, the commission shall allow the inclusion of minority
8 positions.

9 (7) The commission may enter into contracts for the performance of
10 work necessary to assist the commission in its duties under this act.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** COMMISSION DUTIES. The commission shall
12 conduct a comprehensive review of water resources management in
13 Washington that includes:

14 (1) An identification of all programs governing flood and storm
15 water management, water supply delivery, water quality protection,
16 instream flow and riparian habitat protection, and other water resource
17 management needs;

18 (2) An assessment of the performance of existing programs in
19 achieving coordinated water resource management, that identifies
20 specific conflicting or inconsistent strategies, standards,
21 jurisdiction, or planning requirements;

22 (3) Recommendations for the coordination and integration of state
23 water resource programs, including the need for an independent water
24 resources agency;

25 (4) Recommendations for comprehensive statutory policies on water
26 allocation procedures and priorities, including revisions of the
27 state's surface and ground water codes;

28 (5) Recommendations to achieve water resource management on a
29 watershed basis;

30 (6) Recommendations for changes to water resource planning programs
31 to achieve a comprehensive regional planning framework whose boundaries
32 recognize hydrological boundaries;

33 (7) Recommendations for the consolidation of state water resources
34 and water quality funding programs;

35 (8) Recommendations for integrating permit programs for the
36 withdrawal of water and the discharge of pollutants to state waters;

37 (9) Recommendations for the creation of market-based systems for
38 water allocation, including but not limited to transfers, consumption-

1 based rate structures, incentives for conservation of irrigation water,
2 and water marketing;

3 (10) Assessment of the impact of hydrologic continuity on the
4 management of programs governing surface and ground waters, and
5 recommendations for improved management regimes;

6 (11) Recommendations for state and local government coordination of
7 water quality and resource planning consistent with the programs and
8 objectives of the growth management act.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** COMMISSION MEETINGS. Within one hundred
10 twenty days following the effective date of this act, the governor
11 shall schedule the initial meeting of the commission. The commission
12 shall determine the location and frequency of its meetings, but shall
13 meet at least monthly. Commission meetings shall be open to the
14 public, and written notice of scheduled commission meetings shall be
15 provided to persons requesting such notice. The commission shall
16 accept and consider written comments on the subjects included in its
17 work plan, and shall endeavor to provide opportunities for public
18 comment within its meeting schedule.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** COMMISSION WORK PLAN. The commission shall
20 develop a work plan that sets priorities for review of the subjects
21 described in section 3 of this act and such additional subjects that
22 the commission identifies for review. The work plan shall schedule the
23 subjects for review over the period of the commission's authorized
24 life, and identify its goals for providing a report to the legislature
25 on each subject. The work plan shall describe the tasks proposed for
26 each review item and estimated funding needs. The work plan shall be
27 submitted to the fiscal committees of the legislature and to the office
28 of financial management no later than December 1, 1993.

29 Notwithstanding the work plan schedule, the commission shall report
30 to the legislature on those subjects required by section 3(1), (2),
31 (3), and (4) of this act no later than November 1, 1994.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** REPORTS. The commission shall periodically
33 report to the governor and the legislature as it accomplishes its
34 review of the subjects identified in its work plan. The reports shall
35 describe current conditions and program effectiveness, and shall

1 include recommendations for legislative and administrative action to
2 meet the legislative purpose set forth in section 1 of this act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act is necessary for the immediate
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
5 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
6 effect immediately.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Captions as used in this act constitute no
8 part of the law.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act and the
10 Washington water resources policy commission shall expire December 31,
11 1996.

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