
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5320

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ecology & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Talmadge, Winsley, Deccio, Moore and Sutherland)

Read first time 02/10/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to limits on phosphorus contents in certain
2 detergents; and adding new sections to Title 70 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature hereby finds and declares
5 that:

6 (1) Phosphorus loading of surface waters can stimulate the growth
7 of weeds and algae, and that such growth can have adverse
8 environmental, health, and aesthetic effects;

9 (2) Household detergents contribute to phosphorus loading, and that
10 a limit on detergents containing phosphorus can significantly reduce
11 the discharge of phosphorus into the state's surface and ground waters;

12 (3) Household detergents containing no or very low phosphorus are
13 readily available and that over thirty percent of the United States
14 population lives in areas with a ban on detergents containing
15 phosphorus; and

16 (4) Phosphorus limits on household detergents can significantly
17 reduce treatment costs at those sewage treatment facilities that remove
18 phosphorus from the waste stream.

1 It is therefore the intent of the legislature to impose a state-
2 wide limit on the phosphorus content of household detergents.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
4 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout sections 1
5 through 4 of this act.

6 (1) "Department" means the department of ecology.

7 (2) "Dishwashing detergent" means a cleaning agent sold, used, or
8 manufactured for the purpose of cleaning dishes, whether by hand or by
9 household machine.

10 (3) "Laundry detergent" means a cleaning agent sold, used, or
11 manufactured for the purpose of cleaning laundry, whether by hand or by
12 household machine.

13 (4) "Person" means an individual, firm, association, copartnership,
14 political subdivision, government agency, municipality, industry,
15 public or private corporation, or any other entity whatsoever.

16 (5) "Phosphorus" means elemental phosphorus.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) After July 1, 1994, a person may not
18 sell or distribute for sale a laundry detergent that contains 0.5
19 percent or more phosphorus by weight.

20 (2) After July 1, 1994, a person may not sell or distribute for
21 sale a dishwashing detergent that contains 8.7 percent or more
22 phosphorous by weight.

23 (3) This section does not apply to the sale or distribution of
24 detergents for commercial and industrial uses.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department is responsible for notifying
26 major distributors and wholesalers of the state-wide limit on
27 phosphorus in detergents.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The attorney general or appropriate city or
29 county prosecuting attorney is authorized to bring an appropriate
30 action to enjoin any violation of the provisions of section 3 of this
31 act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act are each
2 added to Title 70 RCW.

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