
SENATE BILL 5320

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1993 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Talmadge, Winsley, Deccio, Moore and Sutherland

Read first time 01/22/93. Referred to Committee on Ecology & Parks.

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

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

17 (4) Phosphorus limits on household and commercial detergents can
18 significantly reduce treatment costs at those sewage treatment
19 facilities that remove 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 and commercial
3 detergents.

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

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

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

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

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

17 (5) "Phosphorus" means elemental phosphorus.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) After October 1, 1993, a person may not
19 use, sell, or distribute a laundry detergent that contains 0.5 percent
20 or more phosphorus by weight.

21 (2) A person may not use, sell, or distribute a dishwashing
22 detergent that contains (a) after October 1, 1993, 8.7 percent or more
23 phosphorus by weight and (b) after October 1, 1995, 6 percent or more
24 phosphorus by weight.

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.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act are each
29 added to Title 70 RCW.

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