
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5536

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation
(originally sponsored by Senators Spanel and Gardner)

Read first time 02/17/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to state forest lands and municipal drinking water
2 protection; creating new sections; making appropriations; providing an
3 expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that protection of
6 watershed sources of drinking water is required to assure maintenance
7 of water quality, and also necessary to avoid very costly treatment
8 technologies that may be required under federal safe drinking laws in
9 the absence of adequate watershed protection. The legislature further
10 finds that substantial tracts of state forest lands lie within
11 watersheds that serve thousands of Washington citizens with drinking
12 water through municipal water supply systems, and that the state should
13 serve as a model in the management of its forest lands in a manner that
14 protects drinking water sources.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of natural resources
16 shall review the adequacy of its management plans and standards for
17 state forest lands lying within watersheds that are the source of
18 supply for public water systems with ten thousand or more service

1 connections. The objective of the review is to ensure that forest
2 practice activities on such lands do not cause a degradation of the
3 quality of source waters for such public water supply systems and do
4 not cause hydrologic changes that could affect the supply volume
5 reliability of the source waters for such systems.

6 (2) The department shall conduct the review in coordination with
7 the departments of ecology and health. The department of ecology shall
8 provide information on public water system withdrawal locations and
9 watershed areas supplying source waters for such systems. The
10 department of health shall provide information on state and federal
11 drinking water standards and the applicability of these standards to
12 water source conditions.

13 (3) The department shall involve the operators of public water
14 systems having ten thousand or more service connections and relying on
15 a substantial portion of their water supplies from a watershed in which
16 ten percent or more of the watershed area are state trust lands. The
17 system operators shall cooperate with the department in providing
18 information on the system's source waters, including reliability and
19 quality of supply, and customer usage of the source waters.

20 (4) The department shall seek substantial public participation in
21 the review, including public review and comment upon a draft summary of
22 the results of the review. The department may hold one or more public
23 hearings in one or more of the watersheds subject to the review.

24 (5) The review required by this section shall be completed no later
25 than January 1, 2001. On or before January 1, 2001, the department
26 shall submit a report to the appropriate standing committees of the
27 senate and the house of representatives summarizing the results of its
28 review, including revised management planning and standards. The
29 recommendations shall include strengthened management standards to
30 ensure that municipal water supply sources are not degraded, and shall
31 include procedures to involve municipal water supply systems in the
32 development of management plans for state forest lands within municipal
33 water supply watersheds. The report may include recommendations to the
34 legislature for statutory or budgetary measures to meet the objectives
35 of this act.

36 (6) This section expires January 31, 2001.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Until July 1, 2001, the department and the
38 board of natural resources shall postpone the harvest of state-owned

1 forest land that lies within the watershed of the source water supply
2 of one or more public water systems that cumulatively have more than
3 ten thousand service connections, and that rely on that water source
4 for fifty percent or more of their cumulative average annual water use.
5 This section shall not apply to forest practices activities necessary
6 to protect public health or safety or to respond to an emergency.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The sum of thirty-five thousand dollars,
8 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
9 year ending June 30, 1999, from the general fund to the department of
10 natural resources for the purposes of this act.

11 (2) The sum of forty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000,
13 from the general fund to the department of natural resources for the
14 purposes of this act.

15 (3) The department may provide funding through interagency
16 agreement to the departments of ecology and health for the purposes of
17 this act.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
20 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
21 immediately.

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