
SENATE BILL 5536

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Spanel and Gardner

Read first time 01/27/1999.
Resources, Parks & Recreation.

Referred to Committee on Natural

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 timber harvest
6 within watersheds relied upon by municipal water supply systems may
7 adversely affect the reliability and the quality of the drinking water
8 supplies. Protection of watershed sources of drinking water is
9 required to assure maintenance of water quality, and also necessary to
10 avoid very costly treatment technologies that may be required under
11 federal safe drinking laws in the absence of adequate watershed
12 protection. The legislature further finds that substantial tracts of
13 state forest lands lie within watersheds that serve thousands of
14 Washington citizens with drinking water through municipal water supply
15 systems, and that the state should serve as a model in the management
16 of its forest lands in a manner that protects drinking water sources.
17 Therefore, it is the purpose of this act to direct the department of
18 natural resources to review its programs in municipal watersheds and to

1 delay large timber sales in such watersheds pending the completion of
2 such review and the implementation of protective measures.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of natural resources
4 shall review the adequacy of its management plans and standards for
5 state forest lands lying within watersheds that are the source of
6 supply for public water systems with one thousand or more service
7 connections. The objective of the review is to ensure that forest
8 practice activities on such lands do not cause a degradation of the
9 quality of source waters for such public water supply systems and do
10 not cause hydrologic changes that could affect the supply volume
11 reliability of the source waters for such systems.

12 (2) The department shall conduct the review in coordination with
13 the departments of ecology and health. The department of ecology shall
14 provide information on public water system withdrawal locations and
15 watershed areas supplying source waters for such systems. The
16 department of health shall provide information on state and federal
17 drinking water standards and the applicability of these standards to
18 water source conditions.

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

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

30 (5) The review required by this section shall be completed no later
31 than January 1, 2000. On or before January 1, 2000, the department
32 shall submit a report to the appropriate standing committees of the
33 senate and the house of representatives summarizing the results of its
34 review, including revised management planning and standards. The
35 recommendations shall include strengthened management standards to
36 ensure that municipal water supply sources are not degraded, and shall
37 include procedures to involve municipal water supply systems in the
38 development of management plans for state forest lands within municipal

1 water supply watersheds. The report may include recommendations to the
2 legislature for statutory or budgetary measures to meet the objectives
3 of this act.

4 (6) This section expires January 31, 2000.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Until July 1, 2000, the department and the
6 board of natural resources shall not approve the harvest of state-owned
7 forest land that lies within the watershed of the source water supply
8 of one or more public water systems that cumulatively have more than
9 one thousand service connections, and that rely on that water source
10 for fifty percent or more of their cumulative average annual water use.
11 This section shall not apply to:

12 (1) Forest practices activities necessary to protect public health
13 or safety or to respond to an emergency; and

14 (2) Forest practices activities on lands lying greater than ten
15 miles from the nearest public water supply system withdrawal facility.

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

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

24 (3) The department may provide funding through interagency
25 agreement to the departments of ecology and health as well for the
26 purposes of this act.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
28 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
29 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
30 immediately.

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