

2376

Sponsor(s): Representatives Rockefeller, Doumit, Eickmeyer, Dickerson, Hunt, Lantz, Edwards, Romero, Haigh, McDermott and Jackley

Brief Description: Concerning abandoned and derelict waterborne vessels.

**HB 2376 - DIGEST**

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Finds that there has been an increase in the number of derelict and abandoned vessels that are either grounded or anchored upon publicly or privately owned submerged lands. These vessels are public nuisances and safety hazards as they often pose hazards to navigation, detract from the aesthetics of Washington's waterways, and threaten the environment with the potential release of hazardous materials.

Finds that the costs associated with the disposal of derelict and abandoned vessels are substantial, and that in many cases there is no way to track down the current vessel owners in order to seek compensation. As a result, the costs associated with the removal of derelict vessels becomes a burden on public entities and the taxpaying public.

Declares that it is unlawful for a person, firm, corporation, or public entity to leave an abandoned or derelict vessel upon aquatic lands in this state. If the owner or operator of a vessel previously thought to be abandoned is located, the owner or operator of the vessel must be given a reasonable opportunity to obtain proper authorization to relocate the vessel onto publicly owned aquatic lands, either through relocation to a marina or in accordance with RCW 79.90.105.

Provides that an authorized public entity has the authority, subject to the processes and limitations of this act, to store, strip, use, auction, sell, salvage, scrap, or dispose of an abandoned or derelict vessel existing on or above aquatic lands within the jurisdiction of the authorized public entity.