

5909-S2

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Regala, Spanel and Thibaudeau)

Brief Description: Revising financial responsibility requirements for vessels.

SB 5909-S2 - DIGEST

(AS OF SENATE 2ND READING 2/18/02)

Finds that the current financial responsibility laws for vessels and facilities are in need of update and revision. These changes are necessary due to the increased risks of spills, the length of time that has passed since the current standards were put in place, the recent changes that have occurred in federal statutory and case law, the comparative standards of other western states, and the recent experiences of other states with spills.

Provides that, to assist the department in determining the proper levels of financial responsibility for onshore and offshore facilities, as required under RCW 88.40.025, the department shall contract for an independent economic analysis regarding adequate levels of financial responsibility. The analysis shall include consideration of the matters identified in RCW 88.40.025. The analysis shall be completed and delivered to the legislature and governor by September 1, 2002.

Declares that it is unlawful for any vessel required to have financial responsibility under chapter 88.40 RCW to enter or operate on Washington waters without meeting the requirements of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter, except when necessary to avoid injury to the vessel's crew or passengers.