

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 6269

As Reported by House Committee On:
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Title: An act relating to harbor lines in Blaine, Edmonds, Ilwaco, Kennewick, and Pasco.

Brief Description: Concerning the relocation of harbor lines.

Sponsors: Senators Hale, Doumit, Hewitt and Brandland.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Agriculture & Natural Resources: 2/13/04, 2/20/04 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Authorizes the Harbor Line Commission to change, relocate, or reestablish the harbor lines for the City of Blaine's Drayton Harbor, the City of Edmonds, the City of Ilwaco, the City of Pasco, and the City of Kennewick.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Linville, Chair; Rockefeller, Vice Chair; Schoesler, Ranking Minority Member; Kristiansen, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Eickmeyer, Grant, Hunt, McDermott, Orcutt, Quall and Sump.

Staff: Jason Callahan (786-7117).

Background:

The Washington Constitution requires the Legislature to appoint a commission to establish harbor lines for the navigable waters extending in front of, or one mile beside, any incorporated city limit. The harbor area is the area between the outer and inner harbor line, and cannot exceed 2,000 feet, or fall shorter than 50 feet. The harbor area designated by the Harbor Line Commission is required by the Constitution to be reserved for landings, wharves, and other conveniences of navigation and commerce. No structure within a harbor area may be leased for a term exceeding 30 years.

The Legislature has appointed the Board of Natural Resources to serve as the Harbor Line Commission. The Harbor Line Commission may locate and establish harbor lines and determine harbor areas. However, once established, the Harbor Line Commission generally may only change, relocate, or reestablish the harbor lines for harbors that are expressly listed by the Legislature. Of the 30 harbor areas currently established in the state, the Legislature has granted the Harbor Line Commission express authority to amend the harbor lines for 21 of them. The nine harbor areas that the Harbor Line Commission does not have the authority to amend are Blaine, Edmonds, Marysville, Ilwaco, Kennewick, Lake Whatcom, Pasco, Snohomish, and Steilacoom.

Summary of Bill:

The Harbor Line Commission is authorized to change, relocate, or reestablish the harbor lines for the City of Blaine's Drayton Harbor, the City of Edmonds, the City of Ilwaco, the City of Pasco, and the City of Kennewick.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This bill is technical in nature and gives the impacted harbors the option to go before the Harbor Line Commission instead of the Legislature when requesting a change in their harbor lines.

Testimony Against: None.

Persons Testifying: Eric Johnson, Washington Public Ports Association.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.