
SENATE BILL 5880

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Reardon, Mulliken, Haugen, T. Sheldon, Shin, Schmidt, Doumit, Stevens and Hargrove

Read first time 02/18/2003. Referred to Committee on Land Use & Planning.

1 AN ACT Relating to the integration of shoreline management policies
2 with the growth management act; and amending RCW 90.58.020 and
3 36.70A.480.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 90.58.020 and 1995 c 347 s 301 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The legislature finds that the shorelines of the state are among
8 the most valuable and fragile of its natural resources and that there
9 is great concern throughout the state relating to their utilization,
10 protection, restoration, and preservation. In addition it finds that
11 ever increasing pressures of additional uses are being placed on the
12 shorelines necessitating increased coordination in the management and
13 development of the shorelines of the state. The legislature further
14 finds that much of the shorelines of the state and the uplands adjacent
15 thereto are in private ownership; that unrestricted construction on the
16 privately owned or publicly owned shorelines of the state is not in the
17 best public interest; and therefore, coordinated planning is necessary
18 in order to protect the public interest associated with the shorelines
19 of the state while, at the same time, recognizing and protecting

1 private property rights consistent with the public interest. There is,
2 therefor, a clear and urgent demand for a planned, rational, and
3 concerted effort, jointly performed by federal, state, and local
4 governments, to prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and
5 piecemeal development of the state's shorelines.

6 It is the policy of the state to provide for the management of the
7 shorelines of the state by planning for and fostering all reasonable
8 and appropriate uses. This policy is designed to insure the
9 development of these shorelines in a manner which, while allowing for
10 limited reduction of rights of the public in the navigable waters, will
11 promote and enhance the public interest. The public interest and the
12 statewide interest include the development of water-dependent publicly
13 owned facilities. This policy contemplates protecting against adverse
14 effects to the public health, the land and its vegetation and wildlife,
15 and the waters of the state and their aquatic life, while protecting
16 generally public rights of navigation and corollary rights incidental
17 thereto.

18 The legislature declares that the interest of all of the people
19 shall be paramount in the management of shorelines of statewide
20 significance. The department, in adopting guidelines for shorelines of
21 statewide significance, and local government, in developing master
22 programs for shorelines of statewide significance, shall give
23 preference to uses in the following order of preference which:

- 24 (1) Recognize and protect the statewide interest over local
25 interest;
- 26 (2) Preserve the natural character of the shoreline;
- 27 (3) Result in long term over short term benefit;
- 28 (4) Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline;
- 29 (5) Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the
30 shorelines;
- 31 (6) Increase recreational opportunities for the public in the
32 shoreline;
- 33 (7) Provide for any other element as defined in RCW 90.58.100
34 deemed appropriate or necessary.

35 In the implementation of this policy the public's opportunity to
36 enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of natural shorelines of the
37 state shall be preserved to the greatest extent feasible consistent
38 with the overall best interest of the state and the people generally.

1 To this end uses shall be preferred which are consistent with control
2 of pollution and prevention of damage to the natural environment, or
3 are unique to or dependent upon use of the state's shoreline.
4 Alterations of the natural condition of the shorelines of the state, in
5 those limited instances when authorized, shall be given priority for
6 single family residences and their appurtenant structures, ports,
7 shoreline recreational uses including but not limited to parks,
8 marinas, piers, and other improvements facilitating public access to
9 shorelines of the state, industrial and commercial developments which
10 are particularly dependent on their location on or use of the
11 shorelines of the state and other development that will provide an
12 opportunity for substantial numbers of the people to enjoy the
13 shorelines of the state. Alterations of the natural condition of the
14 shorelines and shorelands of the state shall be recognized by the
15 department. Shorelines and shorelands of the state shall be
16 appropriately classified and these classifications shall be revised
17 when circumstances warrant regardless of whether the change in
18 circumstances occurs through man-made causes or natural causes. Any
19 areas resulting from alterations of the natural condition of the
20 shorelines and shorelands of the state no longer meeting the definition
21 of "shorelines of the state" shall not be subject to the provisions of
22 chapter 90.58 RCW.

23 Permitted uses in the shorelines of the state shall be designed and
24 conducted in a manner to minimize, insofar as practical, any resultant
25 damage to the ecology and environment of the shoreline area and any
26 interference with the public's use of the water.

27 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.70A.480 and 1995 c 347 s 104 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 (1) For shorelines of the state, the goals and policies of the
30 shoreline management act as set forth in RCW 90.58.020 are added as one
31 of the goals of this chapter as set forth in RCW 36.70A.020. The goals
32 and policies of a shoreline master program for a county or city
33 approved under chapter 90.58 RCW shall be considered an element of the
34 county or city's comprehensive plan, on an equal priority with the
35 other stated goals of RCW 36.70A.020. All other portions of the
36 shoreline master program for a county or city adopted under chapter

1 90.58 RCW, including use regulations, shall be considered a part of the
2 county or city's development regulations.

3 (2) The shoreline master program shall be adopted pursuant to the
4 procedures of chapter 90.58 RCW rather than the procedures set forth in
5 this chapter for the adoption of a comprehensive plan or development
6 regulations.

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