
SENATE BILL 5884

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Fraser and Kline

Read first time 02/18/2003. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water.

1 AN ACT Relating to evaluating and addressing the health risks
2 associated with toxic air pollutants; adding a new section to chapter
3 70.94 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Toxic pollutants released to the air
6 comprise approximately seventy-five percent of all toxic releases in
7 Washington. Like many other states and the federal government,
8 presently Washington state's principal strategy for reducing the
9 release of toxic pollutants focuses on releases from industrial
10 sources. This approach uses a technology-based system to address the
11 releases and places a primary emphasis on conventional air pollutants
12 such as particulates and carbon monoxide.

13 The legislature finds that while this approach has had considerable
14 success in controlling conventional sources of pollution, the state
15 needs to examine a different approach for dealing with the public
16 health risks associated with toxic air pollutants. Toxic air emissions
17 should be evaluated using a public health, risk-based approach that
18 prioritizes state action on the most dangerous toxic air pollutants.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.94 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The department shall develop a planned strategy to address
4 toxic air pollutant emissions based on their relative risk to public
5 health. The toxic air pollutant emission strategy must:

6 (a) Identify the most significant toxic air pollutants being
7 released in Washington;

8 (b) Include an evaluation, based on existing scientific
9 information, of the risks associated with the identified toxic air
10 pollutants;

11 (c) Evaluate the relative public health risk posed by the toxic air
12 pollutants; and

13 (d) Prioritize the toxic air pollutants by the relative risk.

14 (2) The department shall establish a ten-year schedule to adopt
15 emission reduction standards that significantly reduce emissions for
16 the top ten toxic air pollutants.

17 (3) The department shall undertake actions, including any necessary
18 rule making, to begin emission reductions for the six toxic air
19 pollutants posing the greatest relative risk, as determined by the
20 department, no later than January 1, 2006. The department shall use
21 the authorities provided under this chapter to achieve such reductions,
22 and incorporate the actions as appropriate into the state's clean air
23 implementation plan.

24 (4) In developing the toxic air emission strategy, the department
25 may involve an advisory committee with a balanced representation of
26 local government, business, agriculture, and environmental, public
27 health, and community groups. Interested tribes and federal agencies
28 should be encouraged to participate if an advisory committee is formed.

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