

1876-S

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Linville, Jarrett, Murray, Schoesler, Conway, Anderson, Kenney, Cairnes, Sommers, McIntire, Dunshee, Haigh, Chase and Tom)

Brief Description: Protecting water quality.

HB 1876-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Provides that, in order to ensure that construction projects involving the use of fill material do not pose a threat to water quality, the department may require that the suitability of potential fill material be evaluated using a leaching test included in the soil clean-up rules adopted by the department under chapter 70.105D RCW in any water quality certification issued under section 401 of the federal clean water act and in any administrative order issued under chapter 90.48 RCW, where such certification or administrative order authorizes the placement of fill material, some or all of which will be placed in waters of the state. Any such requirement imposed by the department in a water quality certification or administrative order issued prior to the effective date of this act is ratified and approved by the legislature as a valid and reliable method for determining concentrations of chemical constituents that can be present in fill material without posing an unacceptable risk of violating water quality standards, and shall be in effect as imposed by the department for all work not completed by June 1, 2003.

Requires the department to identify the leaching tests utilized for evaluating the potential impacts to water quality in situations where fill material is imported. The tests may include those identified in the soil clean-up rules adopted by the department under chapter 70.105D RCW. Within existing resources, the department shall assess whether this list of leaching tests provides appropriate methods for analyzing water quality impacts for all types of projects and in all circumstances where fill material is imported. The department shall also identify any gaps in leaching test methodology. The department shall report both the leaching test list and the list of test methodology gaps to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 31, 2003.