
HOUSE BILL 2578

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Upthegrove, B. Sullivan and Dickerson

Read first time 01/10/2006. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to outfalls in Puget Sound; and creating new
2 sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that healthy shellfish
5 populations are an important component of the Puget Sound ecosystem, by
6 filtering water and improving water quality. The legislature further
7 finds that shellfish harvests provide jobs, generate economic benefits,
8 and provide state funds for public access to aquatic lands and
9 management of state aquatic resources. The legislature further finds
10 that point source outfalls result in the closure of shellfish beds, and
11 the loss of both environmental and economic benefits. The legislature
12 further finds that investments to address shellfish closures due to
13 point source outfalls may result in long-term financial and
14 environmental benefits. The legislature therefore finds that a
15 systematic approach to evaluating outfalls in Puget Sound must be
16 conducted with the goal of improving water quality and reducing the
17 closure of shellfish beds.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of ecology, in
2 cooperation with the department of health, the department of natural
3 resources, the department of fish and wildlife, and representatives
4 from affected stakeholders, including, but not limited to,
5 environmental interests, shellfish growers, and organizations
6 representing both public and private outfalls, shall conduct a
7 systematic evaluation of point source outfalls in Puget Sound and their
8 impact on shellfish by December 1, 2006.

9 (2) The evaluation must:

10 (a) Identify all point source outfalls in Puget Sound in relation
11 to shellfish growing areas;

12 (b) Estimate the shellfish areas closed due to outfalls, including
13 an estimate of the impact on commercial shellfish harvests;

14 (c) Determine options for altering the outfall to increase
15 shellfish areas available for harvest. The options may include new
16 treatment technologies, water reuse, or other options that result in
17 either removal of the outfall, reducing or otherwise improving the
18 water quality of the discharge, or other outcomes resulting in an
19 increase in shellfish growing areas; and

20 (d) Prioritize projects based on the costs of making improvements
21 in relation to the economic and environmental benefits of the project.

22 (3) The department of ecology, in cooperation with the department
23 of health, the department of natural resources, and the department of
24 fish and wildlife, and affected stakeholders shall develop
25 recommendations and report findings to the appropriate committees of
26 the legislature for funding options to implement projects identified in
27 subsection (2)(d) of this section by December 1, 2006. The
28 recommendations must include incentives to encourage current operators
29 of legally permitted outfalls to undertake projects that would improve
30 water quality and increase shellfish growing areas. The report must
31 also include a review of all current grant and loan programs available
32 to fund projects identified in the list.

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