
SENATE BILL 6855

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Schoesler and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/27/2006. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to barley straw for water clarification; and adding
2 a new section to chapter 90.48 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 90.48 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the
7 application of barley straw to waters of the state for the purposes of
8 water clarification is not a discharge of a pollutant requiring a
9 permit as long as the following provisions are met:

10 (a) The water body surface area is calculated into square feet or
11 acres;

12 (b) The barley straw is applied at a rate of:

13 (i) 0.3 to 0.8 ounces for each ten square feet;

14 (ii) Fifty-four to two hundred twenty-five pounds per acre; or

15 (iii) One to five bales per acre, where one bale equals forty-five
16 pounds;

17 (c) Lower application rates are used for clear water and higher
18 application rates are used for muddy water;

- 1 (d) Whole bales or tightly packed straw are not used. Straw must
2 be loosely packed in nylon or mesh bags;
- 3 (e) Bags of straw are placed where control is desired, such as
4 around docks and swim areas, and around inlets to aid in aeration or
5 mixing;
- 6 (f) The bags must be staked or anchored in place;
- 7 (g) Straw is placed in early spring, prior to the growth of algae;
- 8 (h) Bags are removed four to six months after placement and must
9 not be left in the water over winter;
- 10 (i) Organic straw is used, if possible;
- 11 (j) The recommended amounts are not exceeded. Too much straw may
12 degrade water quality; and
- 13 (k) A hydraulic project approval may be required. The person
14 placing the barley straw must contact the regional department of fish
15 and wildlife office prior to placing the straw.
- 16 (2) The discharge of barley straw into waters of the state in any
17 other instance is not authorized absent a permit.

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