
Select Committee on Puget Sound

HB 1656

Brief Description: Establishing the Puget Sound scientific research account.

Sponsors: Representatives Rolfes, Upthegrove, B. Sullivan, Appleton, Chase, Santos, Dickerson and Sells.

Brief Summary of Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creates a scientific research account to fund research programs and projects to protect and restore Puget Sound.• Tasks the Puget Sound Action Team, or its successor agency, to identify Puget Sound science gaps, and to formulate a research plan to meet science gaps.

Hearing Date: 1/31/07

Staff: Karen Rogers (786-7388).

Background:

Puget Sound is a 2,800-square-mile inland water connected to the Pacific Ocean via the Strait of Juan de Fuca in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. It extends from Admiralty Inlet in the north, to Olympia, Washington, in the south. It includes open marine waters; inland marine waters; Hood Canal, a glacially scoured fjord; numerous river and stream channels; and 2,500 miles of shoreline.

The Puget Sound Action Team (Action Team) is a partnership of state agencies and tribal and local governments charged with developing and coordinating conservation programs to protect and restore Puget Sound. The Action Team staff guide the implementation of the *Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan*, and work with tribal and local governments, community groups, citizens and businesses, and state and federal agencies to develop and carry out 2-year work plans. The Legislature created the PSAT in 1996.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

A Puget Sound scientific research account is created to fund research programs and projects to protect and restore Puget Sound. The Action Team, or its successor agency, identifies gaps in Puget Sound science, formulates a research plan to meet science gaps, and prioritizes projects.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 29, 2007.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.