

HB 1761-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Provides that, to achieve and protect the state's long-term ecological health, the department shall prioritize sufficient funding to clean up hazardous waste sites and prevent the creation of future hazards due to improper disposal of toxic wastes on land or in water. The department shall accelerate clean-up efforts throughout Washington, and create financing tools to clean up large-scale hazardous waste sites requiring multiyear commitments. To effectively monitor toxic accounts expenditures, the department shall develop a comprehensive ten-year financing report that identifies long-term remedial action project costs, tracks expenses, and projects future needs.

Provides that, to expedite cleanups throughout the state, the department shall partner with local communities and liable parties for cleanups. The department is authorized to use the following additional strategies in order to ensure a healthful environment for future generations: (1) The director may alter grant-matching requirements to create incentives for local governments to expedite cleanups when one of the following conditions exists: (a) funding would prevent or mitigate unfair economic hardship imposed by the clean-up liability; (b) funding would create new substantial economic development, public recreational, or habitat restoration opportunities that would not otherwise occur; or (c) funding would create an opportunity for acquisition and redevelopment of vacant, orphaned, or abandoned property under RCW 70.105D.040(5) that would not otherwise occur;

(2) The use of outside contracts to conduct necessary studies; and

(3) The purchase of remedial action cost-cap insurance, when necessary to expedite multiparty clean-up efforts.