

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SB 5895

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning timing restrictions for remedial action grants to local government.

**Sponsors:** Senators Frockt and Mullet.

**Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology**  
**House Committee on Capital Budget**

**Background:** Hazardous Waste. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is the state agency responsible for the prevention and cleanup of toxic leaks and spills that threaten the health of people and the environment. Toxic and hazardous materials include arsenic, petroleum, dioxins, and other substances that contaminate soil and water.

Model Toxics Control Act. The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), enacted by voters in 1989, established Washington State's environmental cleanup law. MTCA funds and directs the investigation, cleanup, and prevention of sites that are contaminated by hazardous substances.

MTCA is funded through a tax on hazardous substances, cost-recovery from potentially liable persons, penalties under the MTCA law, and other funding authorized by the Legislature for cleanup projects. There are three MCTA accounts— the State Toxics Control Account, the Local Toxics Control Account, and the Environmental Stewardship Account.

Remedial Action Grants and Loans. Local governments can apply for a remedial action grant or loan to assist with the cleanup of hazardous waste sites supervised by Ecology or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under a legal order or decree. Every even-numbered year, Ecology consults with local governments to understand the ten year cost of critical cleanup projects in Washington. The estimates inform Ecology's biennial budget request to the Governor and Legislature.

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

Projects that are eligible to receive remedial action grants or loans include:

- interim actions;
- remedial investigations;
- feasibility studies and remedy selection;
- engineering design and remedy construction;
- operation and maintenance or monitoring of constructed remedy for up to one year;  
and
- landfill closures, if required as remedial actions.

**Summary:** The requirement that local governments must obtain all required permits for a remedial action within one year of the effective date of the budget to receive grants or loans for a remedial action is removed.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	49	0
House	98	0

**Effective:** June 9, 2022