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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1303**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** House Environment & Energy (originally sponsored by Representatives Mena, Berry, Reeves, Reed, Ormsby, Salahuddin, Ramel, Pollet, Nance, Doglio, and Scott)

READ FIRST TIME 02/13/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing environmental justice by improving  
2 government decisions; adding new sections to chapter 43.21C RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The purpose of this act is to reduce the  
6 disparities in cumulative environmental and health impacts in  
7 Washington and improve the health of all Washington residents.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21C  
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1)(a) The department of ecology shall add environmental justice  
11 as an element of the environment within WAC 197-11-444 and as a  
12 component of the environmental checklist within WAC 197-11-960, as  
13 those sections existed on the effective date of this section.

14 (b) Upon the adoption of rules by the department of ecology, a  
15 lead agency must, in implementing the requirements of this chapter,  
16 consider environmental justice in a manner consistent with its  
17 consideration of other elements of the environment within WAC  
18 197-11-444.

19 (2) In adopting rules to implement this section, the department  
20 of ecology must identify standardized mitigation, which may include

1 best management practices, for potential adverse environmental  
2 impacts to environmental justice. When implemented, the standardized  
3 mitigation developed under this subsection must be considered in a  
4 threshold determination under this chapter.

5 (3) For purposes of this section "environmental justice" has the  
6 same meaning as in RCW 70A.02.010.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21C  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) The obligations applicable to lead agencies under section 2  
10 of this act are in addition to and do not limit or amend the  
11 obligations of covered agencies under chapter 70A.02 RCW.

12 (2) A covered agency under chapter 70A.02 RCW may adopt any  
13 environmental justice assessment prepared under that chapter or apply  
14 other analyses or processes under that chapter to satisfy the  
15 requirements of section 2 of this act, to the extent that such an  
16 environmental justice assessment and other analyses or processes  
17 under that chapter are sufficient to satisfy the requirements of  
18 section 2 of this act.

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