
HOUSE BILL 2010

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2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Manjarrez, Mendoza, Dufault, Corry, Dent, Keaton, Griffey, Chase, Walsh, Barkis, and Pollet

Read first time 02/21/25. Referred to Committee on Environment & Energy.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a safe drinking water grant program
2 for economically distressed communities; amending RCW 43.20.050;
3 adding a new section to chapter 70A.125 RCW; and creating a new
4 section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The provision of safe drinking water is of
7 great importance to protect the health of the people of Washington
8 state. The grant program created under this act provides an avenue
9 for safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water to economically
10 distressed communities and offsets the costs to ratepayers in these
11 communities.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.20.050 and 2021 c 65 s 37 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) The state board of health shall provide a forum for the
15 development of public health policy in Washington state. It is
16 authorized to recommend to the secretary means for obtaining
17 appropriate citizen and professional involvement in all public health
18 policy formulation and other matters related to the powers and duties
19 of the department. It is further empowered to hold hearings and
20 explore ways to improve the health status of the citizenry.

1 In fulfilling its responsibilities under this subsection, the
2 state board may create ad hoc committees or other such committees of
3 limited duration as necessary.

4 (2) In order to protect public health, the state board of health
5 shall:

6 (a) Adopt rules for group A public water systems, as defined in
7 RCW 70A.125.010, necessary to assure safe and reliable public
8 drinking water and to protect the public health. Such rules shall
9 establish requirements regarding:

10 (i) The design and construction of public water system
11 facilities, including proper sizing of pipes and storage for the
12 number and type of customers;

13 (ii) Drinking water quality standards, monitoring requirements,
14 and laboratory certification requirements;

15 (iii) Public water system management and reporting requirements;

16 (iv) Public water system planning and emergency response
17 requirements;

18 (v) Public water system operation and maintenance requirements;

19 (vi) Water quality, reliability, and management of existing but
20 inadequate public water systems; and

21 (vii) Quality standards for the source or supply, or both source
22 and supply, of water for bottled water plants;

23 (b) Adopt rules as necessary for group B public water systems, as
24 defined in RCW 70A.125.010. The rules shall, at a minimum, establish
25 requirements regarding the initial design and construction of a
26 public water system. The state board of health rules may waive some
27 or all requirements for group B public water systems with fewer than
28 five connections;

29 (c) Adopt rules and standards for prevention, control, and
30 abatement of health hazards and nuisances related to the disposal of
31 human and animal excreta and animal remains;

32 (d) Adopt rules controlling public health related to
33 environmental conditions including but not limited to heating,
34 lighting, ventilation, sanitary facilities, and cleanliness in public
35 facilities including but not limited to food service establishments,
36 schools, recreational facilities, and transient accommodations;

37 (e) Adopt rules for the imposition and use of isolation and
38 quarantine;

39 (f) Adopt rules for the prevention and control of infectious and
40 noninfectious diseases, including food and vector borne illness, and

1 rules governing the receipt and conveyance of remains of deceased
2 persons, and such other sanitary matters as may best be controlled by
3 universal rule; and

4 (g) Adopt rules for accessing existing databases for the purposes
5 of performing health related research.

6 (3) The state board shall adopt rules for the design,
7 construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of those
8 on-site sewage systems with design flows of less than (~~three~~
9 ~~thousand five hundred~~) 3,500 gallons per day.

10 (4) The state board may delegate any of its rule-adopting
11 authority to the secretary and rescind such delegated authority.

12 (5) All local boards of health, health authorities and officials,
13 officers of state institutions, police officers, sheriffs,
14 constables, and all other officers and employees of the state, or any
15 county, city, or township thereof, shall enforce all rules adopted by
16 the state board of health. In the event of failure or refusal on the
17 part of any member of such boards or any other official or person
18 mentioned in this section to so act, he or she shall be subject to a
19 fine of not less than (~~fifty dollars~~) \$50, upon first conviction,
20 and not less than (~~one hundred dollars~~) \$100 upon second
21 conviction.

22 (6) The state board may advise the secretary on health policy
23 issues pertaining to the department of health and the state.

24 (7) The state board shall maintain and enforce all drinking water
25 standards as required by applicable federal standards pursuant to 42
26 U.S.C. Sec. 200f et seq., in addition to those required by state law
27 under this chapter and chapter 70A.100 RCW.

28 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 70A.125
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
31 specific purpose, the department shall provide financial assistance
32 through a safe drinking water grant program for economically
33 distressed communities, hereby created.

34 (2) Any public water system as defined in RCW 70A.125.010 that:
35 (a) Is located in an economically distressed community; and (b) does
36 not meet state drinking water standards under chapter 43.20 or
37 70A.125 RCW is eligible.

38 (3) All financing provided through the program must be in the
39 form of grants to eligible public water systems to build, repair,

1 consolidate, and redesign infrastructure. Grants must cover capital
2 improvements, in addition to planning grants that increase public
3 health and compliance with drinking water regulations.

4 (a) Public water systems seeking planning grants under this
5 section must provide a brief statement describing existing drinking
6 water quality conditions, public water system and site deficiencies,
7 and financial constraints, as well as other materials as required by
8 the department.

9 (b) Public water systems seeking construction grants under this
10 section must have: (i) Received and completed a planning grant under
11 (a) of this subsection; or (ii) completed construction documents
12 including drawings, specifications, total project cost estimates,
13 contract and procurement requirements, in addition to a brief
14 statement describing existing drinking water quality conditions,
15 public water system and site deficiencies, and financial constraints.

16 (4) Before January 1, 2026, the department must develop an
17 application process and project evaluation criteria to evaluate
18 applications. Primary consideration must be given to drinking water
19 quality and financial need and prioritized accordingly.

20 (5) Beginning with the 2027-2029 fiscal biennium, the department
21 must submit a prioritized list of recommended projects for funding to
22 the governor and the legislature as part of the department's biennial
23 capital budget request. The prioritized list must include a
24 description of each project and the amount of recommended state
25 funding. Priority must be given to projects with the poorest water
26 quality.

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