
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6234

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senate Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Lias and Salomon)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to regulating sewage grinder pumps for new
2 residential buildings; adding a new section to chapter 35.21 RCW;
3 adding a new section to chapter 35A.21 RCW; adding a new section to
4 chapter 36.01 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 57.02 RCW; and
5 adding a new section to chapter 54.04 RCW.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) No city or town may prohibit the installation of sewage
10 grinder pumps for new single-family residences that:

11 (a) Are located below grade of a public sewer line;

12 (b) Are connected to a public or private low-pressure sewer
13 system;

14 (c) Are located where drainage via gravity or other wastewater
15 service alternatives, such as septic tank effluent pumping, are not
16 possible;

17 (d) Must move wastewater vertically;

18 (e) Have a check valve or backflow preventor; and

19 (f) Are consistent with the utility provider's sewer system plan.

20 (2) Sewage grinder pumps installed on private property are owned
21 by the property owner, who is responsible for maintenance and repairs

1 of the equipment. The city or town may accept ownership and
2 maintenance responsibilities of the equipment at its sole discretion.
3 If the property owner fails to complete necessary maintenance or
4 repairs, the sewer provider may make the repairs and invoice the
5 owner for the costs.

6 (3) For purposes of this section:

7 (a) "Sewage grinder pump" means a system connected to a
8 residential building's wastewater system that collects, grinds, and
9 pumps residential sewage into the public sewer system.

10 (b) "Low-pressure sewer system" means a wastewater system that
11 requires pressure from sewage grinder pumps to transport wastewater.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35A.21
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) No code city may prohibit the installation of sewage grinder
15 pumps for new single-family residences that:

16 (a) Are located below grade of a public sewer line;

17 (b) Are connected to a public or private low-pressure sewer
18 system;

19 (c) Are located where drainage via gravity or other wastewater
20 service alternatives, such as septic tank effluent pumping, are not
21 possible;

22 (d) Must move wastewater vertically;

23 (e) Have a check valve or backflow preventor; and

24 (f) Are consistent with the utility provider's sewer system plan.

25 (2) Sewage grinder pumps installed on private property are owned
26 by the property owner, who is responsible for maintenance and repairs
27 of the equipment. The code city may accept ownership and maintenance
28 responsibilities of the equipment at its sole discretion. If the
29 property owner fails to complete necessary maintenance or repairs,
30 the sewer provider may make the repairs and invoice the owner for the
31 costs.

32 (3) For purposes of this section:

33 (a) "Sewage grinder pump" means a system connected to a
34 residential building's wastewater system that collects, grinds, and
35 pumps residential sewage into the public sewer system.

36 (b) "Low-pressure sewer system" means a wastewater system that
37 requires pressure from sewage grinder pumps to transport wastewater.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 36.01
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) No county may prohibit the installation of sewage grinder
4 pumps for new single-family residences that:

5 (a) Are located below grade of a public sewer line;

6 (b) Are connected to a public or private low-pressure sewer
7 system;

8 (c) Are located where drainage via gravity or other wastewater
9 service alternatives, such as septic tank effluent pumping, are not
10 possible;

11 (d) Must move wastewater vertically;

12 (e) Have a check valve or backflow preventor; and

13 (f) Are consistent with the utility provider's sewer system plan.

14 (2) Sewage grinder pumps installed on private property are owned
15 by the property owner, who is responsible for maintenance and repairs
16 of the equipment. The county may accept ownership and maintenance
17 responsibilities of the equipment at its sole discretion. If the
18 property owner fails to complete necessary maintenance or repairs,
19 the sewer provider may make the repairs and invoice the owner for the
20 costs.

21 (3) For purposes of this section:

22 (a) "Sewage grinder pump" means a system connected to a
23 residential building's wastewater system that collects, grinds, and
24 pumps residential sewage into the public sewer system.

25 (b) "Low-pressure sewer system" means a wastewater system that
26 requires pressure from sewage grinder pumps to transport wastewater.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 57.02
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1) No water-sewer district may prohibit the installation of
30 sewage grinder pumps for new single-family residences that:

31 (a) Are located below grade of a public sewer line;

32 (b) Are connected to a public or private low-pressure sewer
33 system;

34 (c) Are located where drainage via gravity or other wastewater
35 service alternatives, such as septic tank effluent pumping, are not
36 possible;

37 (d) Must move wastewater vertically;

38 (e) Have a check valve or backflow preventor; and

39 (f) Are consistent with the utility provider's sewer system plan.

1 (2) Sewage grinder pumps installed on private property are owned
2 by the property owner, who is responsible for maintenance and repairs
3 of the equipment. The water-sewer district may accept ownership and
4 maintenance responsibilities of the equipment at its sole discretion.
5 If the property owner fails to complete necessary maintenance or
6 repairs, the sewer provider may make the repairs and invoice the
7 owner for the costs.

8 (3) For purposes of this section:

9 (a) "Sewage grinder pump" means a system connected to a
10 residential building's wastewater system that collects, grinds, and
11 pumps residential sewage into the public sewer system.

12 (b) "Low-pressure sewer system" means a wastewater system that
13 requires pressure from sewage grinder pumps to transport wastewater.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 54.04
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) No public utility district may prohibit the installation of
17 sewage grinder pumps for new single-family residences that:

18 (a) Are located below grade of a public sewer line;

19 (b) Are connected to a public or private low-pressure sewer
20 system;

21 (c) Are located where drainage via gravity or other wastewater
22 service alternatives, such as septic tank effluent pumping, are not
23 possible;

24 (d) Must move wastewater vertically;

25 (e) Have a check valve or backflow preventor; and

26 (f) Are consistent with the utility provider's sewer system plan.

27 (2) Sewage grinder pumps installed on private property are owned
28 by the property owner, who is responsible for maintenance and repairs
29 of the equipment. The public utility district may accept ownership
30 and maintenance responsibilities of the equipment at its sole
31 discretion. If the property owner fails to complete necessary
32 maintenance or repairs, the sewer provider may make the repairs and
33 invoice the owner for the costs.

34 (3) For purposes of this section:

35 (a) "Sewage grinder pump" means a system connected to a
36 residential building's wastewater system that collects, grinds, and
37 pumps residential sewage into the public sewer system.

1 (b) "Low-pressure sewer system" means a wastewater system that
2 requires pressure from sewage grinder pumps to transport wastewater.

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