

**Title 17 RCW  
WEEDS, RODENTS, AND PESTS**

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**Chapter 17.04 RCW  
WEED DISTRICTS**

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**RCW 17.04.010 Districts authorized—Area and boundaries.** The boards of county commissioners of the respective counties may create a weed district or districts within their counties and enlarge any district, or reduce any district or create or combine or consolidate the districts, or divide or create new districts, from time to time, in the manner hereinafter provided, for the purpose of destroying, preventing and exterminating, or to prevent the introduction, propagation, cultivation or increase of, any particular weed, weeds or plants, or all weeds or plants, including Scotch broom, which are now or may hereafter be classed by the agricultural experiment station of Washington State University as noxious weeds, or plants detrimental to or destructive of crops, fruit, trees, shrubs, valuable plants, forage, or other agricultural plants or produce. Any such district shall include not less than one section of land, and the boundaries thereof shall be along an established road, railroad, scab, uncleared or grazing land, or property line, or established lines, or some natural boundary, and shall include only cultivated or farming lands and shall not include any scab, uncleared or grazing land, except such

as shall lie wholly within cultivated or farming lands within the districts, or which lie adjacent to such cultivated or farming lands and which are infested, or which may reasonably be expected to become infested, with the particular weed or weeds to be destroyed, prevented and exterminated by such district: PROVIDED, That any quarter section of land, or lesser legal subdivision in single ownership, fifty percent of which is cultivated or farming land, shall be considered cultivated and farming land within the meaning of this chapter. [1961 c 250 s 1; 1937 c 193 s 1; 1929 c 125 s 1; RRS s 2771. Prior: 1921 c 150 s 1. Formerly RCW 17.04.010 and 17.04.020.]

**RCW 17.04.030 Petition—Time, place and notice of hearing.** Any one or more freeholders owning more than fifty percent of the acreage desired to be included within the proposed weed district may file a petition with the board of county commissioners praying that their land be included, either separately or with other lands included in the petition, in a weed district to be formed for the purpose of destroying, preventing or exterminating any one or all such weeds, or that such lands be included within a district already formed, or a new district or districts to be formed out of any district or districts then existing. Such petition shall state the boundaries of the proposed district, the approximate number of acres in the proposed district, the particular weed or weeds to be destroyed, prevented or exterminated, the general method or means to be used in such work, and shall contain a list of all known land owners within the proposed district, together with the addresses of such land owners. Upon the filing of such petition the board of county commissioners shall fix a time for a hearing thereon, and shall give at least thirty days' notice of the time and place of such hearing by posting copies of such notice in three conspicuous places within the proposed district, one copy of which shall be at the main entrance to the courthouse, and by mailing a copy of such notice to each of the land owners named in the petition at the address therein named, and if any of the land described in the petition be owned by the state, a copy thereof shall be mailed to the department of natural resources at Olympia. [1988 c 128 s 4; 1929 c 125 s 2; RRS s 2772. Prior: 1921 c 150 s 2. Formerly RCW 17.04.030 and 17.04.040.]

**RCW 17.04.050 Board to determine petition—Resolution to create district.** At the time and place fixed for such hearing the board of county commissioners shall determine whether such weed district shall be created and if such board determines that such district shall be created, it shall fix the boundaries thereof, but shall not modify the purposes of the petition with respect to the weed or weeds to be destroyed, prevented and exterminated as set forth in this petition, and shall not enlarge the boundaries of the proposed district, or enlarge or change the boundary or boundaries of any district or districts already formed without first giving notice to all land owners interested as provided in RCW 17.04.030. If the board shall determine that the weed district petitioned for shall be created it shall pass a resolution to that effect and shall assign a number to such weed district which shall be the lowest number not already taken or adopted by a weed district in such county, and thereafter such district shall be known as "Weed District No. . . . of . . . . ."

County," inserting in the first blank the number of the district and in the second the name of the county in which the district is organized. [1929 c 125 s 3; RRS ss 2773, 2774. Prior: 1921 c 150 ss 3, 4. Formerly RCW 17.04.050 and 17.04.060.]

**RCW 17.04.070 Meetings—Qualifications of electors and directors—Elections—Officers—Bonds—Terms of office—Vacancies—Rules and regulations.** If the board of county commissioners establish such district it shall call a special meeting to be held within such district for the purpose of electing three directors for such district. No person shall be eligible to hold the office of director who is not a qualified elector of the state of Washington and a resident and landowner within such district. Such meeting shall be held not less than thirty nor more than ninety days from the date when such district is established by such board.

Notice of such meeting shall be given by the county auditor by publication once a week for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in such district, and by posting such notice for not less than ten days before the date fixed for such meeting in three public places within the boundaries of such district. The notices shall state the object of the meeting and the time and place when the same shall be held.

At the time and place fixed for the meeting the county commissioner in whose commissioner district such district is located shall act as chair and call the meeting to order. The chair shall appoint two persons to assist him or her in conducting the election, one of whom shall act as clerk. If such county commissioner be not present the electors of such district then present shall elect a chair of the meeting.

Every person who is a landowner within such district and a qualified elector of the state of Washington shall be entitled to vote at such meeting. Any person offering to vote may be challenged by any legally qualified elector of such district, and the chair of such meeting shall thereupon administer to the person challenged an oath in substance as follows: "You do swear (or affirm) that you are a citizen of the United States and a qualified elector of the state of Washington and an owner of land within the boundaries of weed district No. . . . of . . . county (giving number of district and name of county)." If the challenged person shall take such oath or make such affirmation, he or she shall be entitled to vote; otherwise his or her vote shall not be received. Any person making a false oath, or affirmation, or any person illegally voting at such meeting, shall be punished as provided in the general election laws of the state for illegal voting.

The vote shall be by secret ballot, on white paper of uniform size and quality, of such arrangement that when names are written thereon, the same may be folded so as not to disclose the names. The elector shall write the names of three persons that he or she desires as the first directors of such district and shall fold his or her ballot and hand the same to the chair of the meeting who shall deposit it in a ballot box provided for that purpose. The clerk shall thereupon write the name of such person on a list as having voted at such election. After all persons present and entitled to vote have voted, the chair shall declare the election closed, and shall, with the assistance of the clerk and the other person appointed as

assistant, proceed to count the ballots. The person receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected as director for a term ending three years from the first Monday in March following his or her election; the person receiving the second greatest number of votes shall be elected for a term ending two years from the first Monday in March following his or her election, and the person receiving the third greatest number of votes shall be elected for a term ending one year from the first Monday of March following his or her election.

Annually thereafter, there shall be held a meeting of the electors of such district on the last Monday in February, except that the directors may, by giving the same notice as is required for the initial meeting, fix an earlier time for the annual meeting on any nonholiday during the months of December, January, or February. At such meeting one director shall be elected to succeed the director whose term will expire on the first Monday in March following. The directors shall call the annual meeting, and shall fix the time and place where the same shall be held and shall give the same notice thereof as provided for the initial meeting. The annual meeting shall be conducted in the same manner as is provided for the initial meeting, and the qualifications of electors at such annual meeting shall be the same as is required for the initial meeting. In conducting directors' elections, the chair may accept nominations from the floor but voting shall not be limited to those nominated.

All directors shall hold office for the term for which they are elected, and until their successors are elected and qualified. In case of a vacancy occurring in the office of any director, the county commissioners of the county in which such district is located shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. The board of directors shall elect one of its members chair and may appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the board, and who shall be paid such compensation as the board may determine. Each director shall furnish a bond in the sum of one thousand dollars, which may be a surety company bond or property bond approved by the board of county commissioners, which bond shall be filed with the county commissioners and shall be conditioned for the faithful discharge of his or her duties. The cost of such bond shall be paid by the district the same as other expenses of the district. At any annual meeting the method for destroying, preventing, and exterminating weeds of such district as set forth in the petition, and the rules and regulations adopted by such district, may be changed by a majority vote of the qualified electors present at such meeting, or a special meeting may be called for that purpose, notice of which meeting and of such proposed changes to be voted on, shall be given to all landowners residing within the district by mailing a copy of such notice and of such proposed changes to the address of such landowner at least one week before the date fixed for such special meeting. The qualified electors of any weed district, at any annual meeting, may make other weeds that are not on the petition subject to control by the weed district by a two-thirds vote of the electors present: PROVIDED, That said weeds have been classified by the agricultural experiment station of Washington State University as noxious and: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the directors of the weed district give public notice in the manner required for initial meetings of the proposed new control of said weeds by the weed district. [2011 c 336 s 446; 1971 ex.s. c 292 s 15; 1961 c 250 s 2; 1929 c 125 s 4; RRS s 2774-1. Formerly RCW 17.04.070 through 17.04.140.]

**Severability—1971 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 26.28.010.

*Elections: Chapter 29A.84 RCW.*

**RCW 17.04.150 Powers—Weed inspector.** The board of directors of such weed district shall have power:

(1) To adopt rules and regulations, plans, methods, and means for the purpose of destroying, preventing, and exterminating the weed or weeds specified in the petition, and to supervise, carry out, and enforce such rules, regulations, plans, methods, and means.

(2) To appoint a weed inspector and to require from him or her a bond in such sum as the directors may determine for the faithful discharge of his or her duties, and to pay the cost of such bond from the funds of such district; and to direct such weed inspector in the discharge of his or her duties; and to pay such weed inspector from the funds of such district such per diem or salary for the time employed in the discharge of his or her duties as the directors shall determine. [2011 c 336 s 447; 1961 c 250 s 3; 1929 c 125 s 9; RRS s 2778-1. Prior: 1921 c 150 s 6.]

**RCW 17.04.160 Contiguous lands.** Any city or town contiguous to or surrounded by a weed district formed under this chapter shall provide for the destruction, prevention and extermination of all weeds specified in the petition which are within the boundaries of such city or town, in the same manner and to the same extent as is provided for in such surrounding or contiguous weed district; and it shall be the duty of those in charge of school grounds, playgrounds, cemeteries, parks, or any lands of a public or quasi public nature when such lands shall be contiguous to, or within any weed district, to see that all weeds specified in the petition for the creation of such district are destroyed, prevented and exterminated in accordance with the rules and requirements of such district. [1929 c 125 s 6; RRS s 2775-1.]

*Destruction of weeds, etc., city ordinance: RCW 35.21.310.*

**RCW 17.04.170 Indian reservation lands—United States lands.** Any lands owned by any individual wholly or partly within the United States government Indian reservation may be included within a weed district formed under this chapter, and shall be subject to the same rules, regulations and taxes as other lands within the district; and the board of directors of any weed district are authorized to arrange with the officer or agent in charge of any United States lands, within or contiguous to any such district, for the destruction, prevention and extermination of weeds on such government lands. [1929 c 125 s 7; RRS s 2775-2.]

**RCW 17.04.180 County and state lands.** Whenever any lands belonging to the county are included within a weed district, the county legislative authority shall determine the amount of the assessment for which the lands would be liable if they were in private ownership, and the county legislative authority shall appropriate from the current expense fund of the county sufficient money to pay such

amounts. Whenever any state lands are within any weed district, the county treasurer shall certify annually and forward to the appropriate state agency for payment a statement showing the amount of the assessment to which the lands would be liable if they were in private ownership, separately describing each lot or parcel and, if delinquent, with interest and penalties consistent with RCW 84.56.020. [2021 c 217 s 16; 1991 c 245 s 1; 1984 c 7 s 18; 1971 ex.s. c 119 s 1; 1961 c 250 s 4; 1929 c 125 s 8; RRS s 2777. Prior: 1921 c 150 s 7.]

**RCW 17.04.190 Duties of weed inspector.** It shall be the duty of the weed inspector to carry out the directions of the board of directors and to see that the rules and regulations adopted by the board are carried out. He or she shall personally deliver or mail to each resident landowner within such district and to any lessee or person in charge of any land within such district and residing in such district, a copy of the rules and regulations of such district; and he or she shall personally deliver a copy thereof to nonresident landowners or shall deposit a copy of the same in the United States post office in an envelope with postage prepaid thereon addressed to the last known address of such person as shown by the records of the county auditor; and in event no such address is available for mailing he or she shall post a copy of such rules and regulations in a conspicuous place upon such land. A record shall be kept by the weed inspector of such dates of mailing, posting, or delivering such rules and regulations. In case of any railroad such rules and regulations shall be delivered to the section foreman, or to any official of the railroad having offices within the state. Such rules and regulations must be delivered, posted, or mailed by the weed inspector as herein provided at least ten days before the time to start any annual operations necessary to comply with such rules and regulations: PROVIDED, That after such district shall have been in operation two years such rules and regulations shall be delivered to resident landowners only once every three years, unless such rules and regulations are changed. [2011 c 336 s 448; 1961 c 250 s 5; 1929 c 125 s 10; RRS s 2778-2.]

**RCW 17.04.200 Violation of rules and regulations—Notice to destroy weeds—Destruction.** (1) If the weed inspector, or the board of directors, shall find that the rules and regulations of the weed district are not being carried out on any one or more parcels of land within such district, the weed inspector shall give forthwith a notice in writing, on a form to be prescribed by the directors, to the owners, tenants, mortgagees, and occupants, or to the accredited resident agent of any nonresident owner of such lands within the district whereon noxious weeds are standing, being or growing and in danger of going to seed, requiring him or her to cause the same to be cut down, otherwise destroyed or eradicated on such lands in the manner and within the time specified in the notice, such time, however, not to exceed seven days. It shall be the duty of the county auditor and county treasurer to make available to the weed inspector lists of owners, tenants, and mortgagees of lands within such district;

(2) If a resident agent of any nonresident owner of lands where noxious weeds are found standing, being, or growing cannot be found,

the local weed inspector shall post said notice in the form provided by the directors in three conspicuous places on said land, and in addition to posting said notice the local weed inspector shall, at the same time mail a copy thereof by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested to the owner of such nonresident lands, if his or her post office address is known or can be ascertained by said inspector from the last tax list in the county treasurer's office, and it shall be the duty of the treasurer to furnish such lists upon request by the weed inspector. Proof of such serving, posting, and mailing of notice by the weed inspector shall be made by affidavit forthwith filed in the office of the county auditor and it shall be the duty of the county auditor to accept and file such affidavits;

(3) If the weeds are not cut down, otherwise destroyed, or eradicated within the time specified in said notice, the local weed inspector shall personally, or with such help as he or she may require, cause the same to be cut down or otherwise destroyed in the manner specified in said notice. [2011 c 336 s 449; 1961 c 250 s 6; 1937 c 193 s 2; 1929 c 125 s 11; RRS s 2778-3. Prior: 1921 c 150 s 9, part.]

**RCW 17.04.210 Statement of expense—Hearing.** The weed inspector shall keep an accurate account of expenses incurred by him or her in carrying out the provisions of this chapter with respect to each parcel of land entered upon, and the prosecuting attorney of the county or the attorney for the weed district shall cause to be served, mailed, or posted in the same manner as provided in this chapter for giving notice to destroy noxious weeds, a statement of such expenses, including description of the land, verified by oath of the weed inspector to the owner, lessee, mortgagee, occupant or agent, or person having charge of said land, and coupled with such statement shall be a notice subscribed by said prosecuting attorney or attorney for the weed district and naming a time and place when and where such matter will be brought before the board of directors of such district for hearing and determination, said statement or notice to be served, mailed, or posted, as the case may be, at least ten days before the time for such hearing. [2011 c 336 s 450; 1961 c 250 s 7; 1929 c 125 s 12; RRS s 2778-4.]

**RCW 17.04.220 Examination at hearing of expenses—Amount is tax on land—Effect of failure to serve notices.** At the time of such hearing as provided in RCW 17.04.210, or at such time to which the same may be continued or adjourned, the board of directors shall proceed to examine expenses incurred by the weed inspector in controlling weeds on the parcel of land in question, and shall hear such testimony of such other persons who may have legal interest in the proceedings, and shall enter an order upon its minutes as to what amount, if any, is properly chargeable against the lands for weed control. Cost of serving, mailing and posting shall be added to any amount so found to be due and shall be considered part of the cost of weed control on the land in question. The amount so charged by the directors shall be a tax on the land on which said work was done after the expiration of ten days from the date of entry of said order, unless an appeal be taken as in this chapter provided, in which event the same shall become a tax at the time the amount to be paid shall be



determined by the court; and the county treasurer shall enter the same on the tax rolls against the land for the current year and collect it, together with penalty and interest, as other taxes are collected, and when so collected the same shall be paid into the fund for such weed district: PROVIDED, That a failure to serve, mail or post any of the notices or statements provided for in this chapter, shall not invalidate said tax, but in case of such failure the lien of such tax shall be subordinate and inferior to the interests of any mortgagee to whom notice has not been given in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. [1961 c 250 s 8; 1929 c 125 s 13; RRS s 2778-5. Prior: 1921 c 150 s 5. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1925 c 125 s 14 now codified in RCW 17.04.230.]

**RCW 17.04.230 Appellate review—Notice—Cost bond.** Any interested party may appeal from the decision and order of the board of directors of such district to the superior court of the county in which such district is located, by serving written notice of appeal on the chair of the board of directors and by filing in the office of the clerk of the superior court a copy of said notice of appeal with proof of service attached, together with a good and sufficient cost bond in the sum of two hundred dollars, said cost bond to run to such district and in all respects to comply with the laws relating to cost bonds required of nonresident plaintiffs in the superior court. Said notice must be served and filed within ten days from the date of the decision and order of such board of directors, and said bond must be filed within five days after the filing of such notice of appeal. Whenever notice of appeal and the cost bond as herein provided shall have been filed with the clerk of the superior court, the clerk shall notify the board of directors of such district thereof, and such board shall forthwith certify to said court all notices and records in said matters, together with proof of service, and a true copy of the order and decision pertaining thereto made by such board. If no appeal be perfected within ten days from the decision and order of such board, the same shall be deemed confirmed and the board shall certify the amount of such charges to the county treasurer who shall enter the same on the tax rolls against the land. When an appeal is perfected the matter shall be heard in the superior court de novo and the court's decision shall be conclusive on all persons served under this chapter: PROVIDED, That appellate review of the order or decision of the superior court in the manner provided by existing laws, and upon the conclusion of such review, the amount of charges and costs adjudged to be paid shall be certified by the clerk of the superior court to the county treasurer and said treasurer shall proceed to enter the same on his or her rolls against the lands affected. [2011 c 336 s 451; 1988 c 202 s 21; 1971 c 81 s 56; 1929 c 125 s 14; RRS s 2778-6. Formerly RCW 17.04.220, part, and 17.04.230.]

*Appeals to supreme court: Rules of court: See Rules of Appellate Procedure.*

**Severability—1988 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.24.050.

*Cost bonds, civil procedure: RCW 4.84.210 through 4.84.240.*

**RCW 17.04.240 Assessments—Classification of property—Tax levy—Special assessments.** (1) The directors shall annually determine the amount of money necessary to carry on the operations of the district and shall classify the property therein in proportion to the benefits to be derived from the operations of the district and in accordance with such classification shall prorate the cost so determined and shall levy assessments to be collected with the general taxes of the county. In the event that any bonded or warrant indebtedness pledging tax revenue of the district shall be outstanding on April 1, 1951, the directors may, for the sole purpose of retiring such indebtedness, continue to levy a tax upon all taxable property in the district until such bonded or warrant indebtedness shall have been retired.

(2) Activities and programs to limit economic loss and adverse effects due to the presence and spread of noxious weeds on all terrestrial and aquatic areas in the state are declared to be of special benefit, including to lands owned or held by the state, and may be used as the basis upon which special assessments are imposed by the county legislative authority, including upon lands owned or held by the state. [2021 c 217 s 14; 1957 c 13 s 2. Prior: 1951 c 107 s 1; 1929 c 125 s 5, part; RRS s 2774-2.]

**Validating—1957 c 13:** "The provisions of this act are retroactive and any actions or proceedings had or taken under the provisions of RCW 17.04.240, 17.04.250, 17.04.260, 17.08.050, 17.08.060, 17.08.070, 17.08.080, 17.08.090, 17.08.100 or 17.08.110 are hereby ratified, validated and confirmed." [1957 c 13 s 14.]

**RCW 17.04.245 Assessment—Tax roll—Collection.** Such assessments as are made under the provisions of RCW 17.04.240, by the weed district commissioners, shall be spread by the county assessor on the general tax roll in a separate item. Such assessments shall be collected and accounted for with the general taxes, with the terms and penalties thereto attached. [1951 1st ex.s. c 6 s 1.]

**RCW 17.04.250 District treasurer—Duties—Fund.** The county treasurer shall be ex officio treasurer of such district and the county assessor and other county officers shall take notice of the formation of such district and of the tax levy and shall extend the tax on the tax roll against the property liable therefor the same as other taxes are extended, and such tax shall become a general tax against such property, and shall be collected and accounted for as other taxes, with the terms and penalties thereto attached. The moneys collected from such tax shall be paid into a fund to be known as "fund of weed district . . . . . of . . . . . county" (giving the number of district and name of county). All expenses in connection with the operation of such district, including the expenses of initial and annual meetings, shall be paid from such fund, upon vouchers approved by the board of directors of such district. [1957 c 13 s 3. Prior: 1929 c 125 s 5, part; 1921 c 150 s 5; RRS s 2775.]

**RCW 17.04.260 Limit of indebtedness.** No weed district shall contract any obligation in any year in excess of the total of the funds which will be available during the current year from the tax

levy made in the preceding year and funds received in the current year from services rendered and from any other lawful source, and funds accumulated from previous years. [1963 c 52 s 1; 1961 c 250 s 9; 1957 c 13 s 4. Prior: 1929 c 125 s 5, part; 1921 c 150 s 8; RRS s 2778.]

**RCW 17.04.270 Districts organized under prior law—**

**Reorganization.** Any weed district heretofore organized under any law of the state of Washington may become a weed district under the provisions of this chapter and entitled to exercise all the powers and subject to the limitations of a weed district organized under this chapter by the election of three directors for such weed district which shall be done in the same manner as is provided in this chapter for the election of the first directors of a district organized under this chapter. [1929 c 125 s 15; RRS s 2778-7.]

**RCW 17.04.280 Officials of district may enter lands—Penalty for prevention.** All weed district directors, all weed inspectors, and all official agents of all weed districts, in the performance of their official duties, have the right to enter and go upon any of the lands within their weed district at any reasonable time for any reason necessary to effectuate the purposes of the weed district. Any person who prevents or threatens to prevent any lawful agent of the weed district, after said agent identifies himself or herself and the purpose for which he or she is going upon the land, from entering or going upon the land within said weed district at a reasonable time and for a lawful purpose of the weed district, is guilty of a misdemeanor. [2011 c 336 s 452; 1961 c 250 s 10.]

**Chapter 17.06 RCW  
INTERCOUNTY WEED DISTRICTS**

**Sections**

- 17.06.010 Definitions.
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- 17.06.050 Meetings—Qualifications of electors and directors—  
Elections—Officers—Bonds—Terms—Rules.
- 17.06.060 Directors powers and duties—Taxation—Treasurer—Costs.
- 17.06.070 Actions of county officers—Costs.

*Special purpose districts, expenditures to recruit job candidates: RCW 42.24.170.*

**RCW 17.06.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, "principal board of county commissioners", "principal county treasurer", and "principal county auditor" mean respectively those in the county of that part of the proposed intercounty weed district in which the greatest amount of acreage is located. [1959 c 205 s 1.]

**RCW 17.06.020 Intercounty weed districts authorized.** An intercounty weed district, including all or any part of two counties or more, may be created for the purposes set forth in RCW 17.04.010 by the joint action of the boards of county commissioners of the counties in which any portion of the proposed district is located. [1959 c 205 s 2.]

**RCW 17.06.030 Petition for formation—Notice of hearing.** Any one or more freeholders owning more than fifty percent of the acreage desired to be included within the proposed intercounty weed district may file a petition with the principal board of county commissioners praying that their land be included, either separately or with other lands included in the petition, in a weed district to be formed for the purpose of destroying, preventing or exterminating any one or all such weeds, or that such lands be included within a district already formed, or a new district or districts to be formed out of any district or districts then existing. Such petition shall state the boundaries of the proposed district, the approximate number of acres in the proposed district, the particular weed or weeds to be destroyed, prevented or exterminated, the general method or means to be used in such work, and shall contain a list of all known landowners within the proposed district, together with the addresses of such landowners. Upon the filing of such petition the principal board of county commissioners shall notify the other boards of commissioners, shall arrange a time for a joint hearing on the petition, and shall give at least thirty days' notice of the time and place of such hearing by posting copies of such notice in three conspicuous places within the proposed district, and at the main entrance to the courthouse of each county, and by mailing a copy of such notice to

each of the landowners named in the petition at the address named therein. If any of the land described in the petition be owned by the state a copy thereof shall be mailed to the department of natural resources at Olympia. [1988 c 128 s 5; 1959 c 205 s 3.]

**RCW 17.06.040 Hearing—Boundaries—Order of establishment.** At the time and place fixed for such hearing, with the chair of the principal board acting as chair, the respective boards shall determine by a majority vote of each of the boards of county commissioners of the counties whether such intercounty weed district shall be created, and if they determine that such district shall be created, the respective boards shall fix the boundaries of the portion of the proposed district within their respective counties, but they shall not modify the purposes of the petition with respect to the weed or weeds to be destroyed, prevented, and exterminated as set forth in the petition, and they shall not enlarge the boundary of the proposed district, or enlarge or change the boundary or boundaries of any district or districts already formed without first giving notice, as provided in RCW 17.06.030, to all landowners interested. If the respective bodies shall determine that the weed district petitioned for shall be created each such board shall thereupon enter an order establishing and defining the boundary lines of the proposed district within its respective county. A number shall be assigned to such weed district which shall be the lowest number not already taken or adopted by an intercounty weed district in the state, and thereafter such district shall be known as "weed district No. . . .", inserting in the blank the number of the district.

If any county represented does not by a majority vote of its board of commissioners support the petition for an intercounty district, the petition shall be dismissed. [2011 c 336 s 453; 1959 c 205 s 4.]

**RCW 17.06.050 Meetings—Qualifications of electors and directors—Elections—Officers—Bonds—Terms—Rules.** If the respective boards of county commissioners establish such district the chair of the principal board shall call a special meeting of landowners to be held within such district for the purpose of electing three directors for such district. No person shall be eligible to hold the office of director who is not a qualified elector of the state of Washington and a resident and landowner within such district. Such meeting shall be held not less than thirty nor more than ninety days from the date when such district is established.

Notice of such meeting shall be given by the principal county auditor by publication once a week for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in such district, and by posting such notice for not less than ten days before the date fixed for such meeting in three public places within the boundaries of such district. The notices shall state the object of the meeting and the time and place when the same shall be held.

At the time and place fixed for the meeting the chair shall appoint two persons to assist him or her in conducting the election, one of whom shall act as clerk. If such chair be not present the electors of such district then present shall elect a chair of the meeting.

Every person who is a landowner within such district and a qualified elector of the state of Washington shall be entitled to vote at such meeting. Any person offering to vote may be challenged by any legally qualified elector of such district, and the chair of such meeting shall thereupon administer to the person challenged an oath in substance as follows: "You do swear (or affirm) that you are a citizen of the United States and a qualified elector of the state of Washington and an owner of land within the boundaries of weed district No. . . . (giving number of district)." If the challenged person shall take such oath or make such affirmation, he or she shall be entitled to vote; otherwise his or her vote shall not be received. Any person making a false oath, or affirmation, or any person illegally voting at such meeting, shall be punished as provided in the general election laws of the state for illegal voting.

The vote shall be by secret ballot, on white paper of uniform size and quality, of such arrangement that when names are written thereon, the same may be folded so as not to disclose the names. The elector shall write the names of three persons that he or she desires as the first directors of such district and shall fold his or her ballot and hand the same to the chair of the meeting who shall deposit it in a ballot box provided for that purpose. The clerk shall thereupon write the name of such person on a list as having voted at such election. After all persons present and entitled to vote have voted, the chair shall declare the election closed, and shall, with the assistance of the clerk and the other person appointed as assistant, proceed to count the ballots. The person receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected as director for a term ending three years from the first Monday in March following his or her election; the person receiving the second greatest number of votes shall be elected for a term ending two years from the first Monday in March following his or her election, and the person receiving the third greatest number of votes shall be elected for a term ending one year from the first day of March following his or her election.

Annually thereafter, there shall be held a meeting of the electors of such district on the first Monday in February. At such meeting one director shall be elected to succeed the director whose term will expire on the first Monday in March following. The directors shall call the annual meeting, and shall fix the time when and place where the same shall be held and shall give the same notice thereof as provided for the initial meeting. The annual meeting shall be conducted in the same manner as is provided for the initial meeting, and the qualifications of electors at such annual meeting shall be the same as is required for the initial meeting.

All directors shall hold office for the term for which they are elected, and until their successors are elected and qualified. In case of a vacancy occurring in the office of any director, the remaining members of the board of directors shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. The board of directors shall elect one of its members chair and may appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the board, and who shall be paid such compensation as the board may determine. Each director shall furnish a bond in the sum of one thousand dollars, which may be a surety company bond or property bond approved by the principal board of county commissioners, which bond shall be filed with the same board and shall be conditioned for the faithful discharge of his or her duties. The cost of such bond shall be paid by the district the same as other expenses of the district.

At any annual meeting the method for destroying, preventing, and exterminating weeds of such district as set forth in the petition, and the rules and regulations adopted by such district, may be changed by a majority vote of the qualified electors present at such meeting, or a special meeting may be called for that purpose, notice of which meeting and of such proposed changes to be voted on, shall be given to all landowners residing within the district by mailing a copy of such notice and of such proposed changes to the address of such landowner at least one week before the date fixed for such special meeting. [2011 c 336 s 454; 1971 ex.s. c 292 s 16; 1959 c 205 s 5.]

**Severability—1971 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 26.28.010.

**RCW 17.06.060 Directors powers and duties—Taxation—Treasurer—Costs.** The board of directors of an intercounty weed district shall have the same powers and duties as the board of directors of a weed district located entirely within one county, and all the provisions of chapter 17.04 RCW are hereby made applicable to intercounty weed districts: PROVIDED, That in the case of evaluation, assessment, collection, apportionment, and any other allied power or duty relating to taxes in connection with the district, the action shall be performed by the officer or board of the county for that area of the district which is located within his or her respective county, and all materials, information, and other data and all moneys collected shall be submitted to the proper officer of the county of that part of the district in which the greatest amount of acreage is located. Any power which may be or duty which shall be performed in connection therewith shall be performed by the officer or board receiving such as though only a district in a single county were concerned. All moneys collected from such area constituting a part of such district that should be paid to such district shall be delivered to the principal county treasurer who shall be ex officio treasurer of such district. All other materials, information, or data relating to the district shall be submitted to the district board of directors.

Any costs or expenses incurred under this section shall be borne proportionately by each county involved. [2011 c 336 s 455; 1959 c 205 s 6.]

**RCW 17.06.070 Actions of county officers—Costs.** Whenever any action is required or may be performed by any county officer or board for all purposes essential to the maintenance, operation, and administration of the district, such action shall be performed by the respective officer or board of the county of that part of the district in which the greatest amount of acreage of the district is located.

All costs incurred shall be borne proportionately by each county in that ratio which the amount of acreage of the district located in that part of each county forming a part of the district bears to the total amount of acreage located in the whole district. [1959 c 205 s 7.]

**Chapter 17.10 RCW**  
**NOXIOUS WEEDS—CONTROL BOARDS**

**Sections**

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**RCW 17.10.007 Purpose—Construction—1975 1st ex.s. c 13.** The purpose of this chapter is to limit economic loss and adverse effects to Washington's agricultural, natural, and human resources due to the presence and spread of noxious weeds on all terrestrial and aquatic areas in the state.

The intent of the legislature is that this chapter be liberally construed, and that the jurisdiction, powers, and duties granted to the county noxious weed control boards by this chapter are limited only by specific provisions of this chapter or other state and federal law. [1997 c 353 s 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 17. Formerly RCW 17.10.905.]

**RCW 17.10.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- (1) "Agent" means any occupant or any other person acting for the owner and working or in charge of the land.
- (2) "Agricultural purposes" are those that are intended to provide for the growth and harvest of food and fiber.
- (3) "Aquatic noxious weed" means an aquatic plant species that is listed on the state weed list under RCW 17.10.080.
- (4) "Assessment" means a special assessment levied by a county legislative authority pursuant to RCW 17.10.240.
- (5) "Centerline miles" means the length of any given road right-of-way corridor in miles, along the center line of the overall roadway alignment.
- (6) As pertains to the duty of an owner, the words "control," "contain," "eradicate," and the term "prevent the spread of noxious weeds" means conforming to the standards of noxious weed control or prevention in this chapter or as adopted by rule in chapter 16-750 WAC by the state noxious weed control board and an activated county noxious weed control board.
- (7) "Director" means the director of the department of agriculture or the director's appointed representative.

(8) "Noxious weed" means a plant that when established is highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices.

(9) "Owner" means the person in actual control of property including, but not limited to, deeded parcels, public rights-of-way, and undefined lots, or his or her agent, whether the control is based on legal or equitable title or on any other interest entitling the holder to possession and, for purposes of liability, pursuant to RCW 17.10.170 or 17.10.210, means the possessor of legal or equitable title or the possessor of an easement: PROVIDED, That when the possessor of an easement has the right to control or limit the growth of vegetation within the boundaries of an easement, only the possessor of the easement is deemed, for the purpose of this chapter, an "owner" of the property within the boundaries of the easement.

(10) "Parcel" means real property having a parcel number or deeded real property, undefined lot, a lot having a legal description, or right-of-way owned or held by the state, county, or city.

(11) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, firm, the state or any department, agency, or subdivision thereof, or any other entity.

(12) "Screenings" means a mixture of mill or elevator run mixture or a combination of varying amounts of materials obtained in the process of cleaning either grain or seeds, or both, such as light or broken grain or seed, weed seeds, hulls, chaff, joints, straw, elevator dust, floor sweepings, sand, and dirt.

(13) "State noxious weed list" means a list of noxious weeds adopted by the state noxious weed control board. The list is divided into three classes:

(a) Class A consists of those noxious weeds not native to the state that are of limited distribution or are unrecorded in the state and that pose a serious threat to the state;

(b) Class B consists of those noxious weeds not native to the state that are of limited distribution or are unrecorded in a region of the state and that pose a serious threat to that region;

(c) Class C consists of any other nonnative to Washington state noxious weeds.

(14) "Weed district" means a weed district as defined in chapters 17.04 and 17.06 RCW. [2021 c 217 s 1; 1997 c 353 s 2; 1995 c 255 s 6; 1987 c 438 s 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 1.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Effective date—1995 c 255:** See RCW 17.26.901.

**RCW 17.10.020 County noxious weed control boards—Created—Jurisdiction—Inactive status.**

(1) In each county of the state there is created a noxious weed control board, bearing the name of the county within which it is located. The jurisdictional boundaries of each board are the boundaries of the county within which it is located.

(2) Each noxious weed control board is inactive until activated pursuant to the provisions of RCW 17.10.040. [1997 c 353 s 3; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 2.]

**RCW 17.10.030 State noxious weed control board—Members—Terms—Elections—Meetings—Reimbursement for travel expenses.** There is created a state noxious weed control board comprised of nine voting members and four nonvoting members. Four of the voting members shall be elected by the members of the various activated county noxious weed control boards, and shall be residents of a county in which a county noxious weed control board has been activated and a member of said board, and those qualifications shall continue through their term of office. Two of these members shall be elected from the west side of the state, the crest of the Cascades being the dividing line, and two from the east side of the state. The director of agriculture is a voting member of the board. One voting member shall be elected by the directors of the various active weed districts formed under chapter 17.04 or 17.06 RCW. The Washington state association of counties appoints one voting member who shall be a member of a county legislative authority. A statewide association representing county noxious weed coordinators appoints a nonvoting technical advisor. The director shall appoint two voting members to represent the public interest, one from the west side and one from the east side of the state. The director shall also appoint three nonvoting members representing scientific disciplines relating to weed control. The term of office for all members of the board is four years from the date of election or appointment.

The board, by rule, shall establish a position number for each elected position of the board and shall designate which county noxious weed control board members are eligible to vote for each elected position. The elected members serve staggered terms. Elections for the elected members of the board shall be held thirty days prior to the expiration date of their respective terms. Nominations and elections shall be by mail and conducted by the board.

The board shall conduct its first meeting within thirty days after all its members have been elected. The board shall elect from its members a chair and other officers as may be necessary. A majority of the voting members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business and is necessary for any action taken by the board. The members of the board serve without salary, but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties under this chapter in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. [2021 c 217 s 2; 1997 c 353 s 4; 1987 c 438 s 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 s 23; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 3.]

**Effective date—Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34:** See notes following RCW 2.08.115.

**RCW 17.10.040 Activation of inactive county noxious weed control board.** An inactive county noxious weed control board may be activated by any one of the following methods:

(1) Either within sixty days after a petition is filed by one hundred registered voters within the county or, on its own motion, the county legislative authority shall hold a hearing to determine whether there is a need, due to a damaging infestation of noxious weeds, to activate the county noxious weed control board. If such a need is found to exist, then the county legislative authority shall, in the manner provided by RCW 17.10.050, appoint five persons to the county's noxious weed control board.

(2) If the county's noxious weed control board is not activated within one year following a hearing by the county legislative authority to determine the need for activation, then upon the filing with the state noxious weed control board of a petition comprised either of the signatures of at least two hundred registered voters within the county, or of the signatures of a majority of an adjacent county's noxious weed control board, the state board shall, within six months of the date of the filing, hold a hearing in the county to determine the need for activation. If a need for activation is found to exist, then the state board shall order the county legislative authority to activate the county's noxious weed control board and to appoint members to the board in the manner provided by RCW 17.10.050.

(3) The director, upon request of the state noxious weed control board, shall order a county legislative authority to activate the noxious weed control board immediately if an infestation of a class A noxious weed or class B noxious weed designated for control on the state noxious weed list is confirmed in that county. The county legislative authority may, as an alternative to activating the noxious weed board, combat the class A noxious weed or class B noxious weed with county resources and personnel operating with the authorities and responsibilities imposed by this chapter on a county noxious weed control board. No county may continue without a noxious weed control board for a second consecutive year if the class A noxious weed or class B noxious weed has not been eradicated. [1997 c 353 s 5; 1987 c 438 s 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 2; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 4.]

**RCW 17.10.050 Activated county noxious weed control board—  
Members—Election—Terms—Meetings—Quorum—Expenses—Officers—Vacancy.**

(1) Each activated county noxious weed control board consists of five voting members appointed by the county legislative authority in the manner prescribed in this section. In appointing the voting members, the county legislative authority shall divide the county into five geographical areas that best represent the county's interests, and appoint a voting member from each geographical area. At least three of the voting members shall be engaged in the primary production of agricultural products. There is one nonvoting member on the board who is the director of the county extension office or an extension agent appointed by the director of the county extension office. Each voting member of the board serves a term of four years, except that the county legislative authority shall, when a board is first activated under this chapter, designate two voting members to serve terms of two years. The board members shall not receive a salary but shall be compensated for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

(2) (a) The voting members of the board serve until their replacements are appointed. New members of the board shall be appointed at least thirty days prior to the expiration of any board member's term of office.

(b) Notice of expiration of a term of office shall be published at least twice in a weekly or daily newspaper of general circulation in the geographical area with last publication occurring at least ten days prior to the nomination. All persons interested in appointment to the board and residing in the geographical area with a pending nomination shall make a written application that includes the signatures of at least ten registered voters residing in the

geographical area supporting the nomination to the county noxious weed control board. After nominations close, the county noxious weed control board shall, after a hearing, send the applications to the county legislative authority recommending the names of the most qualified candidates, and post the names of those nominees in the county courthouse or county website and publish in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county. The county legislative authority, within 60 days of receiving the list of nominees, shall appoint one of those nominees to the county noxious weed control board to represent that geographical area during that term of office. If the county legislative authority fails to appoint a nominee within the 60-day period and a quorum of the board is not seated, the county noxious weed control board shall appoint a nominee only to meet a quorum, who shall serve in that capacity until the county legislative authority appoints a nominee to fill the vacant position in the manner prescribed in this section. Not more than three board members may be appointed in this manner.

(3) Within thirty days after all the members have been appointed, the board shall conduct its first meeting. A majority of the voting members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business and is necessary for any action taken by the board. The board shall elect from its members a chair and other officers as may be necessary.

(4) In case of a vacancy, the position must be filled in the manner prescribed in this section. [2021 c 217 s 3; 1997 c 353 s 6; 1987 c 438 s 4; 1980 c 95 s 1; 1977 ex.s. c 26 s 6; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 3; 1974 ex.s. c 143 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 5.]

**RCW 17.10.060 Activated county noxious weed control board—Weed coordinator—Authority—Rules and regulations.** (1) Each activated county noxious weed control board must employ or otherwise provide a weed coordinator whose duties are fixed by the board but which shall include inspecting land to determine the presence of noxious weeds, offering technical assistance and education, and developing a program to achieve compliance with the weed law. The weed coordinator may be employed full time, part time, or seasonally by the county noxious weed control board. County weed board employment practices shall comply with county personnel policies. Within sixty days from initial employment, the weed coordinator must obtain licensure consistent with Washington state department of agriculture pesticide license rules, and the necessary endorsements on the licenses as required by law. Each board may purchase, rent, or lease equipment, facilities, or products and may hire additional persons as it deems necessary for the administration of the county's noxious weed control program.

(2) Each activated county noxious weed control board has the power to adopt rules and regulations, subject to notice and hearing as provided in chapter 42.30 RCW, as are necessary for an effective county weed control or eradication program.

(3) Each activated county noxious weed control board shall meet with a quorum at least quarterly. [2021 c 217 s 4; 1997 c 353 s 7; 1987 c 438 s 5; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 6.]

**RCW 17.10.070 State noxious weed control board—Powers—Report.** (1) In addition to the powers conferred on the state noxious weed

control board under other provisions of this chapter, it has the power to:

(a) Employ a state noxious weed control board executive secretary and educational specialist, and additional persons as it deems necessary, to disseminate information relating to noxious weeds to county noxious weed control boards and weed districts, to coordinate the educational and weed control efforts of the various county and regional noxious weed control boards and weed districts, and to assist the board in carrying out its responsibilities;

(b) Adopt, amend, or repeal rules, pursuant to the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, as may be necessary to carry out the duties and authorities assigned to the board by this chapter.

(2) The state noxious weed control board must provide a written report before January 1st of each odd-numbered year to the county noxious weed control boards and the weed districts showing the expenditure of state funds on noxious weed control; specifically how the funds were spent; the status of the state, county, and district programs; and recommendations for the continued best use of state funds for noxious weed control. The report must include recommendations as to the long-term needs regarding weed control.

[2021 c 217 s 5; 1998 c 245 s 3; 1997 c 353 s 8; 1987 c 438 s 6; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 4; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 7.]

**RCW 17.10.074 Director—Powers.** (1) In addition to the powers conferred on the director under other provisions of this chapter, the director, with the advice of the state noxious weed control board, has power to:

(a) Require the county legislative authority or the noxious weed control board of any county or any weed district to report to it concerning the presence, absence, or estimated amount of noxious weeds and measures, if any, taken or planned for the control thereof;

(b) Employ staff as may be necessary in the administration of this chapter;

(c) Adopt, amend, or repeal rules, pursuant to the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, as may be necessary to carry out this chapter;

(d) Do such things as may be necessary and incidental to the administration of its functions pursuant to this chapter including but not limited to surveying for and detecting noxious weed infestations.

(2) In addition to the powers conferred on the director under the provisions of this chapter, the director, with the advice of the state noxious weed control board, must:

(a) Upon receipt of a complaint signed by a majority of the members of an adjacent county noxious weed control board or weed district, or by one hundred registered voters that are land owners within the county, require the county legislative authority or noxious weed control board of the county or weed district that is the subject of the complaint to respond to the complaint within forty-five days with a plan for the control of the noxious weeds cited in the complaint;

(b) If the complaint in (a) of this subsection involves a class A or class B noxious weed, order the county legislative authority, noxious weed control board, or weed district to take immediate action to eradicate or control the noxious weed infestation. If the county or the weed district does not take action to control the noxious weed

infestation in accordance with the order, the director may control it or cause it to be controlled. The county or weed district is liable for payment of the expense of the control work including necessary costs and expenses for attorneys' fees incurred by the director in securing payment from the county or weed district. The director may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to collect the expenses of the control work, costs, and attorneys' fees;

(c) In counties without an activated noxious weed control board, enter upon any property as provided for in RCW 17.10.160, issue or cause to be issued notices and citations and take the necessary action to control noxious weeds as provided in RCW 17.10.170, hold hearings on any charge or cost of control action taken as provided for in RCW 17.10.180, issue a notice of civil infraction as provided for in RCW 17.10.230, 17.10.310, and 17.10.350, and place a lien on any property pursuant to RCW 17.10.280, 17.10.290, and 17.10.300 with the same authorities and responsibilities imposed by these sections on county noxious weed control boards;

(d) Adopt a list of noxious weed seeds and toxic weeds which shall be controlled in designated articles, products, or feed stuffs as provided for in RCW 17.10.235.

(3) The moneys appropriated for noxious weed control to the department shall be used for administration of the state noxious weed control board, the administration of the director's powers under this chapter, the purchase of materials for controlling, containing, or eradicating noxious weeds, the purchase or collection of biological control agents for controlling noxious weeds, and the contracting for services to carry out the purposes of this chapter. In a county with an activated noxious weed control board, the director shall make every effort to contract with that board for the needed services.

(4) If the director determines the need to reallocate funds previously designated for county use, the director shall convene a meeting of the state noxious weed control board to seek its advice concerning any reallocation. [2021 c 217 s 6; 1997 c 353 s 9; 1987 c 438 s 7.]

**RCW 17.10.080 State noxious weed list—Hearing—Adoption—Guidelines for placing plants on the list—Dissemination.** (1) The state noxious weed control board shall each year or more often, following a hearing, adopt a state noxious weed list.

(2) The state noxious weed control board shall adopt guidelines by rule for placing plants on the state noxious weed list. These guidelines must include criteria for reconsideration of proposed new species that were not adopted by the state noxious weed control board, including the need for the board to be presented with additional data from scientific sources regarding any invasive and noxious qualities of the species and from existing positive economic benefits before taking any action.

(3) Any person may request during a comment period established by the state noxious weed control board the inclusion, deletion, or designation change of any plant to the state noxious weed list.

(4) The state noxious weed control board shall send a copy of the list to each activated county noxious weed control board, to each weed district, and to the county legislative authority of each county with an inactive noxious weed control board.

(5) The record of rule making must include the written findings of the board for the inclusion of each plant on the list. The findings shall be made available upon request to any interested person. [2011 c 126 s 1; 1997 c 353 s 10; 1989 c 175 s 57; 1987 c 438 s 8; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 5; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 8.]

**Effective date—1989 c 175:** See note following RCW 34.05.010.

**RCW 17.10.090 State noxious weed list—Selection of weeds for control by county board.** (1) Each county noxious weed control board shall, within ninety days of the adoption of the state noxious weed list from the state noxious weed control board and following a hearing, select those weeds from the class C list and those weeds from the class B list not designated for control in the noxious weed control region in which the county lies that it finds necessary to be controlled in the county.

(2) The weeds thus selected and all class A weeds and those class B weeds that have been designated for control in the noxious weed control region in which the county lies shall be classified within that county as noxious weeds, and those weeds comprise the county noxious weed list.

(3) Nothing in this chapter limits a county noxious weed control board, or other branch of county or city government, from conducting education, outreach, or other assistance regarding plant species not included on the state noxious weed list if the county or city determines that the plant species causes localized risk or concern. [2011 c 126 s 2; 1997 c 353 s 11; 1987 c 438 s 9; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 9.]

**RCW 17.10.100 Order to county board to include weed from state board's list in county's noxious weed list.** Where any of the following occur, the state noxious weed control board must hold a hearing, then may order any county noxious weed control board or weed district to include a noxious weed from the state board's list in the county's noxious weed list:

(1) Where the state noxious weed control board receives a petition from at least one hundred registered voters within the county requesting that the weed be listed.

(2) Where the state noxious weed control board receives a request for inclusion from an adjacent county's noxious weed control board or weed district, which the adjacent board or district has included that weed in its county or district list, and the adjacent board or weed district documents that its noxious weed control program is being hampered by the failure to include the weed on the county's noxious weed list. [2021 c 217 s 7; 1997 c 353 s 12; 1987 c 438 s 10; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 10.]

**RCW 17.10.110 Regional noxious weed control board—Creation.** A regional noxious weed control board comprising the area of two or more counties may be created as follows:

Either the county legislative authority, or the noxious weed control board, or both, of two or more counties may, upon a determination that the purpose of this chapter will be served by the



creation of a regional noxious weed control board, adopt a resolution providing for a limited merger of the functions of their respective counties noxious weed control boards. The resolution becomes effective only when a similar resolution is adopted by the other county or counties comprising the proposed regional board. [1997 c 353 s 13; 1987 c 438 s 11; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 6; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 11.]

**RCW 17.10.120 Regional noxious weed control board—Members—Meetings—Quorum—Officers—Effect on county boards.** In any case where a regional noxious weed control board is created, the county noxious weed control boards comprising the regional board shall still remain in existence and shall retain all powers and duties provided for the boards under this chapter.

The regional noxious weed control board is comprised of the voting members and the nonvoting members of the component counties noxious weed control boards or county legislative authorities who shall, respectively, be the voting and nonvoting members of the regional board: PROVIDED, That each county shall have an equal number of voting members. The board may appoint other nonvoting members as deemed necessary. A majority of the voting members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business and is necessary for any action taken by the board. The board shall elect a chair from its members and other officers as may be necessary. Members of the regional board serve without salary but shall be compensated for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. [1997 c 353 s 14; 1987 c 438 s 12; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 12.]

**RCW 17.10.130 Regional noxious weed control board—Powers and duties.** The powers and duties of a regional noxious weed control board are as follows:

(1) The regional board shall, within ninety days of the adoption of the state noxious weed list from the state noxious weed control board and following a hearing, select those weeds from the state list that it finds necessary to be controlled on a regional basis. The weeds thus selected shall also be contained in the county noxious weed list of each county in the region.

(2) The regional board shall take action as may be necessary to coordinate the noxious weed control programs of the region and adopt a regional plan for the control of noxious weeds. [1997 c 353 s 15; 1987 c 438 s 13; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 13.]

**RCW 17.10.134 Liability of county and regional noxious weed control boards.** Obligations or liabilities incurred by any county or regional noxious weed control board or any claims against a county or regional noxious weed control board are governed by chapter 4.96 RCW or RCW 4.08.120: PROVIDED, That individual members or employees of a county noxious weed control board are personally immune from civil liability for damages arising from actions performed within the scope of their official duties or employment. [1997 c 353 s 16; 1987 c 438 s 14.]

**RCW 17.10.140 Owner's duty to control spread of noxious weeds.**

(1) Except as is provided under subsection (2) of this section, every owner must perform or cause to be performed those acts as may be necessary to:

(a) Eradicate all class A noxious weeds;

(b) Control and prevent the spread of all class B noxious weeds designated for control in that region within and from the owner's property; and

(c) Control and prevent the spread of all class B and class C noxious weeds listed on the county weed list as locally mandated control priorities within and from the owner's property.

(2) Every owner of forestlands classified under RCW 17.10.240(2), or meeting the definition of forestlands contained in RCW 17.10.240, must perform or cause to be performed those acts as may be necessary to:

(a) Eradicate all class A noxious weeds;

(b) Control and prevent the spread of all class B noxious weeds designated for control in that region within and from the owner's property; and

(c) Control and prevent the spread of all class B and class C noxious weeds listed on the county weed list as locally mandated control priorities within and from the owner's property only when encountered in any of the following enumerated circumstances:

(i) Within 1,000 feet of adjacent land uses;

(ii) Within 25 feet of all privately owned roads unless properly abandoned as defined under WAC 222-24-052 as that section existed as of January 1, 2020;

(iii) Within 200 feet of navigable rivers, gravel pits, log yards, and staging areas, except when not allowed under other state or federal laws or regulations; and

(iv) For a single five-year period within harvested areas following the harvesting of trees for products. [2021 c 217 s 8; 1997 c 353 s 17; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 14.]

**RCW 17.10.145 State agencies' duty to control spread of noxious weeds—Replacement of noxious weeds with native forage plants that are beneficial to pollinators.**

(1) All state agencies shall control noxious weeds on lands they own, lease, or otherwise control through integrated pest management practices. Agencies shall develop plans in cooperation with county noxious weed control boards to control noxious weeds in accordance with standards in this chapter. Agencies shall appoint a liaison whose duties include serving as a common point of contact for all weed boards and developing and implementing noxious weed control plans.

(2) All state agencies' lands must comply with this chapter, regardless of noxious weed control efforts on adjacent lands.

(3) While conducting planned projects to ensure compliance with this chapter, all agencies must give preference, when deemed appropriate by the acting agency for the project and targeted resource management goals, to replacing noxious weeds with native forage plants that are pollen-rich or nectar-rich and beneficial for all pollinators, including honey bees. [2021 c 217 s 9; 2019 c 353 s 4; 2016 c 44 s 2; 1997 c 353 s 18; 1995 c 374 s 75.]

**Findings—Intent—2019 c 353:** See note following RCW 43.23.300.

**Effective date—1995 c 374 ss 69, 70, and 72-79:** See note following RCW 16.24.130.

**RCW 17.10.154 Owners' agreements with county noxious weed control boards—Terms—Enforcement.** It is recognized that the prevention, control, and eradication of noxious weeds presents a problem for immediate as well as for future action. It is further recognized that immediate prevention, control, and eradication is practicable on some lands and that prevention, control, and eradication on other lands should be extended over a period of time. Therefore, it is the intent of this chapter that county noxious weed control boards may use their discretion and, by agreement with the owners of land, may propose and accept plans for prevention, control, and eradication that may be extended over a period of years. The county noxious weed control board may make an agreement with the owner of any parcel of land by contract between the landowner and the respective county noxious weed control board, and the board shall enforce the terms of any agreement. The county noxious weed control board may make any terms that will best serve the interests of the owners of the parcel of land and the common welfare that comply with this chapter. Agreements made under this section must include at least a one thousand foot buffer for all adjacent agricultural land uses. Noxious weed control in this buffer must comply with RCW 17.10.140(1). [1997 c 353 s 19; 1987 c 438 s 16.]

**RCW 17.10.160 Right of entry—Warrant for noxious weed search—Civil liability—Penalty for preventing entry.** Any authorized agent or employee of the county noxious weed control board or of the state noxious weed control board or of the department of agriculture where not otherwise proscribed by law may enter upon any property for the purpose of administering this chapter and any power exercisable pursuant thereto, including the taking of specimens of weeds, general inspection, and the performance of eradication or control work. Prior to carrying out the purpose for which the entry is made, the official making such entry or someone in his or her behalf, shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the owner of the property as to the purpose and need for the entry.

(1) When there is probable cause to believe that there is property within this state not otherwise exempt from process or execution upon which noxious weeds are standing or growing and the owner refuses permission to inspect the property, a judge of the superior court or district court in the county in which the property is located may, upon the request of the county noxious weed control board or its agent, issue a warrant directed to the board or agent authorizing the taking of specimens of weeds or other materials, general inspection, and the performance of eradication or control work.

(2) Application for issuance and execution and return of the warrant authorized by this section shall be in accordance with the applicable rules of the superior court or the district courts.

(3) Nothing in this section requires the application for and issuance of any warrant not otherwise required by law: PROVIDED, That civil liability for negligence shall lie in any case in which entry

and any of the activities connected therewith are not undertaken with reasonable care.

(4) Any person who improperly prevents or threatens to prevent entry upon land as authorized in this section or any person who interferes with the carrying out of this chapter shall be upon conviction guilty of a misdemeanor. [1997 c 353 s 20; 1987 c 438 s 17; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 16.]

**RCW 17.10.170 Finding presence of noxious weeds—Notice for failure of owner to control—Control by county board—Liability of owner—Lien—Alternative.** (1) Whenever the county noxious weed control board finds that noxious weeds are present on any parcel of land, and that the owner is not taking prompt and sufficient action to control the noxious weeds, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 17.10.140, it shall notify the owner that a violation of this chapter exists. The notice shall be in writing and sent by certified mail, and shall identify the noxious weeds found to be present, order prompt control action, and specify the time, of at least ten days from issuance of the notice, within which the prescribed action must be taken. Upon deposit of the certified letter of notice, the noxious weed control authority shall make an affidavit of mailing that is prima facie evidence that proper notice was given. If seed or other propagule dispersion is imminent, immediate control action may be taken forty-eight hours following the time that notification is reasonably expected to have been received by the owner or agent by certified mail or personal service, instead of ten days. If a landowner received a notice of violation from the county noxious weed control board in a prior growing season, removal or destruction of all above ground plant parts may be required at the most effective point in the growing season, as determined by the county weed board, which may be before or after propagule dispersion.

(2) The county noxious weed control board or its authorized agents may issue a notice of civil infraction as provided for in RCW 17.10.230, 17.10.310, and 17.10.350 to owners who do not take action to control noxious weeds in accordance with the notice.

(3) If the owner does not take action to control the noxious weeds in accordance with the notice, the county board may control them, or cause their being controlled, at the expense of the owner. The amount of the expense constitutes a lien against the property and may be enforced by proceedings on the lien except as provided for by RCW 79.44.060. The owner is liable for payment of the expense, and nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent collection of any judgment on account thereof by any means available pursuant to law, in substitution for enforcement of the lien. Necessary costs and expenses including reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the county noxious weed control board in carrying out this section may be recovered at the same time as a part of the action filed under this section. Funds received in payment for the expense of controlling noxious weeds shall be transferred to the county noxious weed control board to be expended as required to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(4) The county auditor shall record in his or her office any lien created under this chapter, and any lien shall bear interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum from the date on which the county

noxious weed control board approves the amount expended in controlling the weeds.

(5) As an alternative to the enforcement of any lien created under subsection (3) of this section, the county legislative authority may by resolution or ordinance require that each lien created be collected by the treasurer in the same manner as a delinquent real property tax, if within thirty days from the date the owner is sent notice of the lien, including the amount thereof, the lien remains unpaid and an appeal has not been made pursuant to RCW 17.10.180. Liens treated as delinquent taxes bear interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum and the interest accrues as of the date notice of the lien is sent to the owner: PROVIDED, That any collections for the lien shall not be considered as tax. [1997 c 353 s 21; 1987 c 438 s 18; 1979 c 118 s 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 8; 1974 ex.s. c 143 s 3; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 17.]

**RCW 17.10.180 Hearing on liability for expense of control—**

**Notice—Review.** Any owner, upon request pursuant to the rules and regulation of the county noxious weed control board, is entitled to a hearing before the board on any charge or cost for which the owner is alleged to be liable pursuant to RCW 17.10.170 or 17.10.210. The board shall send notice by certified mail within thirty days, to each owner at the owner's last known address, as to any charge or cost and as to his or her right of a hearing. The hearing shall be scheduled within forty-five days of notification. Any determination or final action by the board is subject to judicial review by a proceeding in the superior court in the county in which the property is located, and the court has original jurisdiction to determine any suit brought by the owner to recover damages allegedly suffered on account of control work negligently performed: PROVIDED, That no stay or injunction shall lie to delay any control work subsequent to notice given pursuant to RCW 17.10.160 or pursuant to an order under RCW 17.10.210. [1997 c 353 s 22; 1987 c 438 s 19; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 18.]

**RCW 17.10.190 Notice and information as to noxious weed control.**

Each activated county noxious weed control board must publish annually, and at other times as may be appropriate, in at least one newspaper of general circulation within its area, a general notice. The notice shall direct attention to the need for noxious weed control and give other information concerning noxious weed control requirements as may be appropriate, or indicate where such information may be secured. In addition to the general notice required, the county noxious weed control board may use any appropriate media for the dissemination of information to the public as may be calculated to bring the need for noxious weed control to the attention of owners. The board may consult with individual owners concerning their problems of noxious weed control and may provide them with information and advice, including giving specific instructions and methods when and how certain named weeds are to be controlled. The methods may include some combination of physical, mechanical, cultural, chemical, and/or biological methods, including livestock. Publication of a notice as required by this section is not a condition precedent to the enforcement of this chapter. [1997 c 353 s 23; 1987 c 438 s 20; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 9; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 19.]

**RCW 17.10.201 Noxious weed control on federal and tribal lands—State and county cooperation.** (1) The state noxious weed control board shall:

(a) Work with the various federal and tribal land management agencies to coordinate state and federal noxious weed control;

(b) Encourage the various federal and tribal land management agencies to devote more time and resources to noxious weed control; and

(c) Assist the various federal and tribal land management agencies by seeking adequate funding for noxious weed control.

(2) County noxious weed control boards and weed districts shall work with the various federal and tribal land management agencies in each county in order to:

(a) Identify new noxious weed infestations;

(b) Outline and plan necessary noxious weed control actions;

(c) Develop coordinated noxious weed control programs; and

(d) Notify local federal and tribal agency land managers of noxious weed infestations.

(3) The department of agriculture, county noxious weed control boards, and weed districts are authorized to enter federal lands, with the approval of the appropriate federal agency, to survey for and control noxious weeds where control measures of a type and extent required under this chapter have not been taken.

(4) The department of agriculture, county noxious weed control boards, and weed districts may bill the federal land management agency that manages the land for all costs of the noxious weed control performed on federal land. If not paid by the federal agency that manages the land, the cost of the noxious weed control on federal land may be paid from any funds available to the county noxious weed control board or weed district that performed the noxious weed control. Alternatively, the costs of noxious weed control on federal land may be paid from any funds specifically appropriated to the department of agriculture for that purpose.

(5) The department of agriculture, county noxious weed control boards, and weed districts are authorized to enter into any reasonable agreement with the appropriate authorities for the control of noxious weeds on federal or tribal lands.

(6) The department of agriculture, county noxious weed control boards, and weed districts shall consult with state agencies managing federal land concerning noxious weed infestation and control programs. [1997 c 353 s 34.]

**RCW 17.10.205 Control of noxious weeds in open areas.** Open areas subject to the spread of noxious weeds, including but not limited to subdivisions, school grounds, playgrounds, parks, and rights-of-way shall be subject to regulation in the same manner and to the same extent as is provided for all terrestrial and aquatic lands of the state. [2021 c 217 s 10; 1997 c 353 s 24; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 16.]

**RCW 17.10.210 Quarantine of land—Order—Expense.** (1) Whenever the director, the county noxious weed control board, or a weed district finds that a parcel of land is so seriously infested with class A or class B noxious weeds that control measures cannot be

undertaken thereon without quarantining the land and restricting or denying access thereto or use thereof, the director, the county noxious weed control board, or weed district, with the approval of the director of the department of agriculture, may issue an order for the quarantine and restriction or denial of access or use. Upon issuance of the order, the director, the county noxious weed control board, or the weed district shall commence necessary control measures and may institute legal action for the collection of costs for control work, which may include attorneys' fees and the costs of other appropriate actions.

(2) An order of quarantine shall be served, by any method sufficient for the service of civil process, on all persons known to qualify as owners of the land within the meaning of this chapter.

(3) The director shall, with the advice of the state noxious weed control board, determine how the expense of control work undertaken pursuant to this section, and the cost of any quarantine in connection therewith, is apportioned. [1997 c 353 s 25; 1987 c 438 s 22; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 21.]

**RCW 17.10.230 Violations—Penalty.** Any owner knowing of the existence of any noxious weeds on the owner's land who fails to control such weeds in accordance with this chapter and rules and regulations in force pursuant thereto; or any person who enters upon any land in violation of an order in force pursuant to RCW 17.10.210; or any person who interferes with the carrying out of the provisions of this chapter has committed a civil infraction. [1987 c 438 s 23; 1979 c 118 s 2; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 23.]

**RCW 17.10.235 Selling product, article, or feed containing noxious weed seeds or toxic weeds—Penalty—Rules—Inspections—Fees.**

(1) The director of agriculture shall adopt, with the advice of the state noxious weed control board, rules designating noxious weed seeds which shall be controlled in products, screenings, or articles to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. The rules shall identify the products, screenings, and articles in which the seeds must be controlled and the maximum amount of the seed to be permitted in the product, screenings, or article to avoid a hazard of spreading the noxious weed by seed from the product, screenings, or article. The director shall also adopt, with the advice of the state board, rules designating toxic weeds which shall be controlled in feed stuffs and screenings to prevent injury to the animal that consumes the feed. The rules shall identify the feed stuffs and screenings in which the toxic weeds must be controlled and the maximum amount of the toxic weed to be permitted in the feed. Rules developed under this section shall identify ways that products, screenings, articles, or feed stuffs containing noxious weed seeds or toxic weeds can be made available for beneficial uses.

(2) Any person who knowingly or negligently sells or otherwise distributes a product, article, screenings, or feed stuff designated by rule containing noxious weed seeds or toxic weeds designated for control by rule and in an amount greater than the amount established by the director for the seed or weed by rule is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(3) The department of agriculture shall, upon request of the buyer, county weed board, or weed district, inspect products, screenings, articles, or feed stuffs designated by rule and charge fees, in accordance with chapter 22.09 RCW, to determine the presence of designated noxious weed seeds or toxic weeds. [2021 c 217 s 11; 1997 c 353 s 26; 1987 c 438 s 30; 1979 c 118 s 4.]

**RCW 17.10.240 Budget for county noxious weed control board—Report to the legislature—Special assessments, appropriations for noxious weed control—Assessment rates.** (1) (a) The activated county noxious weed control board of each county shall annually submit a budget to the county legislative authority for the operating cost of the county's weed program for the ensuing fiscal year: PROVIDED, That if the board finds the budget approved by the legislative authority is insufficient for an effective county noxious weed control program, the board may submit a budget amendment to the county legislative authority after which the county legislative authority must hold a hearing as provided in chapter 36.40 RCW. Activities and programs to limit economic loss and adverse effects due to the presence and spread of noxious weeds on all terrestrial and aquatic areas in the state are declared to be of special benefit, including to lands owned or held by the state, and may be used as the basis upon which special assessments are imposed by the county legislative authority.

(b) Representatives from the department of transportation government relations, real estate services, and maintenance operations offices, the Washington state association of county treasurers, the Washington state association of county assessors, and the state noxious weed control board shall meet to develop a system by which parcels owned or held by the department of transportation that have been declared to receive special benefit from the county noxious weed control board must be identified and all assessments may be effectively billed for payment according to the process in chapter 79.44 RCW. The state noxious weed control board shall update the appropriate legislative committees regarding progress towards implementation of a system before January 1, 2022. By January 1, 2023, the state noxious weed control board shall report to the appropriate legislative committees in compliance with RCW 43.01.036 regarding the system developed, what steps are being taken to implement the system, and what, if any, further legislative action is needed.

(c) Funding for the budget is derived from any or all of the following:

(i) The county legislative authority may, in lieu of a tax, levy an assessment against the land for this purpose. Whenever there is included within the jurisdiction of any county noxious weed control board lands owned or held by the state, the county legislative authority shall determine the amount of the assessment for which the land would be liable if the land were in private ownership. Prior to the levying of an assessment the county noxious weed control board shall hold a public hearing at which it will gather information to serve as a basis for classification and then classify the lands into suitable classifications, including but not limited to dry lands, range lands, irrigated lands, nonuse lands, forestlands, or federal lands. The board shall develop and forward to the county legislative authority, as a proposed level of assessment for each class, an amount as seems just. The assessment rate shall be either uniform per acre in



its respective class or a flat rate per parcel rate plus a uniform rate per acre or, for rights-of-way, a rate based on centerline miles: PROVIDED, That if no benefits are found to accrue to a class of land, a zero assessment may be levied. The assessment shall not be levied on lands owned or held by the state, unless the assessment is levied on other parcels or classes of parcels. The county legislative authority, upon receipt of the proposed levels of assessment from the board, after a hearing, shall accept or modify by resolution, or refer back to the board for its reconsideration all or any portion of the proposed levels of assessment. The amount of the assessment constitutes a lien against the property. The county legislative authority may by resolution or ordinance require that notice of the lien be sent to each owner of property for which the assessment has not been paid by the date it was due and that each lien created be collected by the treasurer in the same manner as delinquent real property tax, if within thirty days from the date the owner is sent notice of the lien, including the amount thereof, the lien remains unpaid and an appeal has not been made pursuant to RCW 17.10.180. Liens treated as delinquent taxes bear interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum and the interest accrues as of the date notice of the lien is sent to the owner: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any collections for the lien shall not be considered as tax; or

(ii) The county legislative authority may appropriate money from the county general fund necessary for the administration of the county noxious weed control program. In addition the county legislative authority may make emergency appropriations as it deems necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

(2) Forestlands used solely for the planting, growing, or harvesting of trees and which are typified, except during a single period of five years following clear-cut logging, by canopies so dense as to prohibit growth of an understory may be subject to an annual noxious weed assessment levied by a county legislative authority that does not exceed one-tenth of the weighted average per acre noxious weed assessment levied on all other lands in unincorporated areas within the county that are subject to the weed assessment. This assessment shall be computed in accordance with the formula in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) The calculation of the "weighted average per acre noxious weed assessment" is a ratio expressed as follows:

(a) The numerator is the total amount of funds estimated to be collected from the per acre assessment on all lands except (i) forestlands as identified in subsection (2) of this section, (ii) lands exempt from the noxious weed assessment, and (iii) lands located in an incorporated area.

(b) The denominator is the total acreage from which funds in (a) of this subsection are collected. For lands of less than one acre in size, the denominator calculation may be based on the following assumptions: (i) Unimproved lands are calculated as being one-half acre in size on the average, and (ii) improved lands are calculated as being one-third acre in size on the average. The county legislative authority may choose to calculate the denominator for lands of less than one acre in size using other assumptions about average parcel size based on local information.

(4) For those counties that levy a per parcel assessment to help fund noxious weed control programs, the per parcel assessment on forestlands as defined in subsection (2) of this section shall not exceed one-tenth of the per parcel assessment on nonforestlands.

[2021 c 217 s 12; 1997 c 353 s 27; 1995 c 374 s 77; 1987 c 438 s 31; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 10; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 24.]

**Effective date—1995 c 374 ss 69, 70, and 72-79:** See note following RCW 16.24.130.

**RCW 17.10.250 Applications for noxious weed control funds.** The legislative authority of any county with an activated noxious weed control board or the board of any weed district may apply to the director for noxious weed control funds when informed by the director that funds are available. Any applicant must employ adequate administrative personnel to supervise an effective weed control program as determined by the director with advice from the state noxious weed control board. The director with advice from the state noxious weed control board shall adopt rules on the distribution and use of noxious weed control account funds. [1997 c 353 s 28; 1987 c 438 s 32; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 11; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 25.]

**RCW 17.10.260 Administrative powers to be exercised in conformity with administrative procedure act—Use of weed control substances subject to other acts.** The administrative powers granted under this chapter to the director of the department of agriculture and to the state noxious weed control board shall be exercised in conformity with the provisions of the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, as now or hereafter amended. The use of any substance to control noxious weeds shall be subject to the provisions of the water pollution control act, chapter 90.48 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, the Washington pesticide control act, chapter 15.58 RCW, and the Washington pesticide application act, chapter 17.21 RCW. [1987 c 438 s 33; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 28.]

**RCW 17.10.270 Noxious weed control boards—Authority to obtain insurance or surety bonds.** Each noxious weed control board may obtain such insurance or surety bonds, or both with such limits as they may deem reasonable for the purpose of protecting their officials and employees against liability for personal or bodily injuries and property damage arising from their acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties. [1987 c 438 s 34; 1974 ex.s. c 143 s 5.]

**RCW 17.10.280 Lien for labor, material, equipment used in controlling noxious weeds.** Every activated county noxious weed control board performing labor, furnishing material, or renting, leasing, or otherwise supplying equipment, to be used in the control of noxious weeds, or in causing control of noxious weeds, upon any property pursuant to the provisions of chapter 17.10 RCW has a lien upon such property for the labor performed, material furnished, or equipment supplied whether performed, furnished, or supplied with the consent of the owner, or his or her agent, of such property, or without the consent of said owner or agent. [2011 c 336 s 456; 1987 c 438 s 35; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 13.]

**RCW 17.10.290 Lien for labor, material, equipment used in controlling noxious weeds—Notice of lien.** Every county noxious weed control board furnishing labor, materials, or supplies or renting, leasing, or otherwise supplying equipment to be used in the control of noxious weeds upon any property pursuant to RCW 17.10.160 and 17.10.170 or pursuant to an order under RCW 17.10.210 as now or hereafter amended, shall give to the owner or reputed owner or his or her agent a notice in writing, within ninety days from the date of the cessation of the performance of such labor, the furnishing of such materials, or the supplying of such equipment, which notice shall cover the labor, material, supplies, or equipment furnished or leased, as well as all subsequent labor, materials, supplies, or equipment furnished or leased, stating in substance and effect that such county noxious weed control board is furnishing or has furnished labor, materials and supplies or equipment for use thereon, with the name of the county noxious weed control board ordering the same, and that a lien may be claimed for all materials and supplies or equipment furnished by such county noxious weed control board for use thereon, which notice shall be given by mailing the same by registered or certified mail in an envelope addressed to the owner at his or her place of residence or reputed residence. [2011 c 336 s 457; 1987 c 438 s 36; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 14.]

**RCW 17.10.300 Lien for labor, material, equipment used in controlling noxious weeds—Claim—Filing—Contents.** No lien created by RCW 17.10.280 exists, and no action to enforce the same shall be maintained, unless within ninety days from the date of cessation of the performance of the labor, furnishing of materials, or the supplying of equipment, a claim for the lien is filed for record as provided in this section, in the office of the county auditor of the county in which the property, or some part of the property to be affected by the claim for a lien, is situated. The claim shall state, as nearly as may be, the time of the commencement and cessation of performing the labor, furnishing the material, or supplying the equipment, the name of the county noxious weed control board that performed the labor or caused the labor to be performed, furnished the material, or supplied the equipment, a description of the property to be charged with the lien sufficient for identification, the name of the owner, or reputed owner if known, or his or her agent, and if the owner is not known, that fact shall be mentioned, the amount for which the lien is claimed, and shall be signed by the county noxious weed control board, and be verified by the oath of the county noxious weed control board, to the effect that the affiant believes that claim to be just; and the claim of lien may be amended in case of action brought to foreclose the same, by order of the court, as pleadings may be, insofar as the interest of third parties shall not be affected by such an amendment. [1997 c 353 s 29; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 15.]

**RCW 17.10.310 Notice of infraction—Issuance.** The county noxious weed control board may issue a notice of civil infraction if after investigation it has reasonable cause to believe an infraction has been committed. A civil infraction may be issued pursuant to RCW 7.80.005, 7.80.070 through 7.80.110, 7.80.120 (3) and (4), and 7.80.130 through 7.80.900. [1997 c 353 s 30; 1987 c 438 s 24.]

**RCW 17.10.350 Infraction—Penalty.** (1) Any person found to have committed a civil infraction under this chapter shall be assessed a monetary penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars. The state noxious weed control board shall adopt a schedule of monetary penalties for each violation of this chapter classified as a civil infraction and submit the schedule to the appropriate court. If a monetary penalty is imposed by the court, the penalty is immediately due and payable. The court may, at its discretion, grant an extension of time, not to exceed thirty days, in which the penalty must be paid.

(2) Failure to pay any monetary penalties imposed under this chapter is punishable as a misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 s 117; 1997 c 353 s 31; 1987 c 438 s 28.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**RCW 17.10.890 Deactivation of county noxious weed control board—Hearing.** A county noxious weed control board may be deactivated only if there are neither any class A noxious weeds nor any class B noxious weeds in the county. Upon receiving documentation of the absence in the county of both class A noxious weeds and class B noxious weeds, the county legislative authority may initiate the following procedures:

(1) The county legislative authority holds a hearing to determine whether there continues to be a need for an activated county noxious weed control board if:

(a) A petition is filed by one hundred registered voters within the county;

(b) A petition is filed by a county noxious weed control board as provided in RCW 17.10.240; or

(c) The county legislative authority passes a motion to hold such a hearing.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, the hearing shall be held within sixty days of final action taken under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) If, after a hearing, the county legislative authority determines that no need exists for a county noxious weed control board, due to the absence of class A or class B noxious weeds designated for control in the region, the county legislative authority shall deactivate the board.

(4) The county legislative authority shall not convene a hearing as provided for in subsection (1) of this section more frequently than once a year. [2021 c 217 s 13; 1997 c 353 s 32; 1987 c 438 s 37.]

**RCW 17.10.900 Weed districts—Continuation—Dissolution—Transfer of assessment funds.** Any weed district formed under chapter 17.04 or 17.06 RCW prior to the enactment of this chapter, continues to operate under the provisions of the chapter under which it was formed: PROVIDED, That if ten percent of the landowners subject to any such weed district, and the county noxious weed control board upon its own motion, petition the county legislative authority for a dissolution of the weed district, the county legislative authority shall provide for an election to be conducted in the same manner as required for the election of directors under the provisions of chapter 17.04 RCW, to

determine by majority vote of those casting votes, if the weed district will continue to operate under the chapter it was formed. The land area of any dissolved weed district becomes subject to the provisions of this chapter. Any district assessment funds may be transferred after the dissolution election under contract to the county noxious weed control board to fund the noxious weed control program. [1997 c 353 s 33; 1987 c 438 s 38; 1975 1st ex.s. c 13 s 12; 1969 ex.s. c 113 s 26.]

**Chapter 17.12 RCW**  
**AGRICULTURAL PEST DISTRICTS**

**Sections**

- 17.12.010 Pest districts authorized.
- 17.12.020 Petition—Notice—Hearing.
- 17.12.030 Determination—Boundaries of district.
- 17.12.040 Designation of district.
- 17.12.050 Treasurer—Tax levies.
- 17.12.060 Supervision of the district.
- 17.12.080 Levies on state and county lands—Levies on state lands to be added to rental or purchase price.
- 17.12.100 Limit of indebtedness.

**RCW 17.12.010 Pest districts authorized.** For the purpose of destroying or exterminating squirrels, prairie dogs, gophers, moles or other rodents, or of rabbits or any predatory animals that destroy or interfere with the crops, fruit trees, shrubs, valuable plants, fodder, seeds or other agricultural plants or products, thing or pest injurious to any agricultural plant or product, or to prevent the introduction, propagation, growth or increase in number of any of the above described animals, or rodents, the board of county commissioners of any county may create a pest district or pest districts within such county and may enlarge any district containing a lesser territory than the whole county, or reduce any district already created, or combine or consolidate districts or divide, or create new districts from time to time in the manner hereinafter set forth. [1919 c 152 s 1; RRS s 2801.]

**RCW 17.12.020 Petition—Notice—Hearing.** Whenever ten or more resident freeholders in any county petition the board of county commissioners, asking that their lands be included, either separately or with other lands designated in the petition in a district to be formed for the purpose of preventing, destroying, or exterminating any of the animals, rodents or other such things described in RCW 17.12.010, or that such lands be included within a district already formed by the enlargement of such district, or a new district or districts be formed out of a district or districts then in existence or out of territory partly in districts already formed and not included in any district, and such petition indicating the boundaries of such proposed district, whether all or any part of such county, and stating the purpose of such district, the board shall fix a time for the hearing of such petition and shall give at least thirty days notice of the time and place of such hearing by posting copies of such notice of the time and place of such hearing in three conspicuous places within the proposed district and posting one copy of such notice at the courthouse or place of business of the board, and also by mailing to each freeholder within the proposed district a copy of such notice, to his last known residence, if known, and if not known to the clerk of such board, then and in that event the posting shall be deemed sufficient: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, If the board shall deem it impractical to mail notices to each freeholder, within the proposed district, or if the post office address of all the freeholders are not known, then in that event when recited in a resolution adopted by the

board, the notice in addition to posting, shall be published once a week for three successive weeks in the county official paper if there is such, and if there be no official paper, then in some paper published in said county, and if there be no paper published in said county, then in some paper of general circulation within the proposed district. The persons in whose name the property is assessed shall be deemed the owners thereof for the purpose of notice as herein required: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That for lands belonging to the state, the commissioner of public lands shall be notified, and for lands belonging to the county, the county auditor shall be notified, and if such lands are under lease or conditional sale the lessee or purchaser shall also be notified in the manner above provided. Any person interested may appear at the time of such hearing and may under such rules and regulations as the board may prescribe give his or her reasons for or objections to the creation of such a district. [1919 c 152 s 2; RRS s 2802.]

**RCW 17.12.030 Determination—Boundaries of district.** Upon the hearing of such petition the board shall determine whether such a district shall be created and shall fix the boundaries thereof, but shall not enlarge the boundaries of proposed districts or enlarge or change the boundary or boundaries of any district or districts already formed without first giving the notice to all parties interested as provided in RCW 17.12.020. [1919 c 152 s 3; RRS s 2803.]

**RCW 17.12.040 Designation of district.** If the board shall deem the interests of the county or of any particular section thereof will be benefited by the creation of such a district or districts, or the changing thereof, it shall make a record thereof upon the minutes of the board and shall designate such territory in each such district as "Pest District . . . . . for . . . . . County". [1919 c 152 s 4; RRS s 2804.]

**RCW 17.12.050 Treasurer—Tax levies.** The county treasurer shall be ex officio treasurer for each of such districts so formed and the county assessor and other county officers shall take notice of the formation of such district or districts and shall be governed thereby according to the provisions of this chapter. The assessment or the tax levies as hereinafter provided for shall be extended on the tax rolls against the property liable therefor the same as other assessments or taxes are extended, and shall become a part of the general tax against such property and be collected and accounted for the same as other taxes are, with the terms and penalties attached thereto. The moneys so collected shall be held and disbursed as a special fund for such district and shall be paid out only on warrant issued by the county auditor upon voucher approved by the board of county commissioners. [1919 c 152 s 5; RRS s 2805.]

**RCW 17.12.060 Supervision of the district.** The agricultural expert in counties having an agricultural expert, shall under the direction of Washington State University have general supervision of the methods and means of preventing, destroying, or exterminating any

animals or rodents as herein mentioned within his or her county, and of how the funds of any pest district shall be expended to best accomplish the purposes for which such funds were raised; in counties having no such agricultural expert each county commissioner shall be within his or her respective commissioner district, ex officio supervisor, or the board may designate some such person to so act, and shall fix his or her compensation therefor. Whenever any member of the board shall act as supervisor he or she shall be entitled to his or her actual expenses and his or her per diem as county commissioner the same as if he or she were doing other county business. [2011 c 336 s 458; 1977 ex.s. c 169 s 4; 1919 c 152 s 6; RRS s 2806.]

**Reviser's note:** The law authorizing the employment of agricultural experts was 1913 c 18 as amended by 1919 c 193 but since repealed by 1949 c 181 which authorizes cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics. See RCW 36.50.010.

**Severability—Nomenclature—Savings—1977 ex.s. c 169:** See notes following RCW 28B.10.016.

**RCW 17.12.080 Levies on state and county lands—Levies on state lands to be added to rental or purchase price.** Whenever there shall be included within any pest district lands belonging to the state or to the county the board of county commissioners shall determine the amount of the tax or assessment for which such land would be liable if the same were in private ownership for each subdivision of forty acres or fraction thereof. The assessor shall transmit to the county commissioners a statement of the amounts so due from county lands and the county commissioners shall appropriate from the current expense fund of the county sufficient money to pay such amounts. A statement of the amounts due from state lands within each county shall be annually forwarded to the commissioner of public lands who shall examine the same and if he or she finds the same correct and that the determination was made according to law, he or she shall certify the same and issue a warrant for the payment of same against any funds in the state treasury appropriated for such purposes.

The commissioner of public lands shall keep a record of the amounts so paid on account of any state lands which are under lease or contract of sale and such amounts shall be added to and become a part of the annual rental or purchase price of the land, and shall be paid annually at the time of payment of rent or payment of interest or purchase price of such land. When such amounts shall be collected by the commissioner of public lands it shall be paid into the general fund in the state treasury. [2011 c 336 s 459; 1973 c 106 s 11; 1919 c 152 s 8; RRS s 2808. Formerly RCW 17.12.080 and 17.12.090.]

**RCW 17.12.100 Limit of indebtedness.** No district shall be permitted to contract obligations in excess of the estimated revenues for the two years next succeeding the incoming [incurring] of such indebtedness and it shall be unlawful for the county commissioners to approve of any bills which will exceed the revenue to any district which shall be estimated to be received by such district during the next two years. [1919 c 152 s 9; RRS s 2809.]

*County budget as limitation on incurring liability: RCW 36.40.100.*



**Chapter 17.15 RCW**  
**INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT**

**Sections**

- 17.15.005 Legislative declaration.
- 17.15.010 Definitions.
- 17.15.020 Implementation of integrated pest management practices.
- 17.15.030 Integrated pest management training—Designated coordinator.

**RCW 17.15.005 Legislative declaration.** The legislature declares that it is the policy of the state of Washington to require all state agencies that have pest control responsibilities to follow the principles of integrated pest management. [1997 c 357 s 1.]

**RCW 17.15.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- (1) "Integrated pest management" means a coordinated decision-making and action process that uses the most appropriate pest control methods and strategy in an environmentally and economically sound manner to meet agency programmatic pest management objectives. The elements of integrated pest management include:
  - (a) Preventing pest problems;
  - (b) Monitoring for the presence of pests and pest damage;
  - (c) Establishing the density of the pest population, that may be set at zero, that can be tolerated or correlated with a damage level sufficient to warrant treatment of the problem based on health, public safety, economic, or aesthetic thresholds;
  - (d) Treating pest problems to reduce populations below those levels established by damage thresholds using strategies that may include biological, cultural, mechanical, and chemical control methods and that must consider human health, ecological impact, feasibility, and cost-effectiveness; and
  - (e) Evaluating the effects and efficacy of pest treatments.
- (2) "Pest" means, but is not limited to, any insect, rodent, nematode, snail, slug, weed, and any form of plant or animal life or virus, except virus, bacteria, or other microorganisms on or in a living person or other animal or in or on processed food or beverages or pharmaceuticals, which is normally considered to be a pest, or which the director of the department of agriculture may declare to be a pest. [1997 c 357 s 2.]

**RCW 17.15.020 Implementation of integrated pest management practices.** Each of the following state agencies or institutions or county agencies shall implement integrated pest management practices when carrying out the agency's or institution's duties related to pest control:

- (1) The department of agriculture;
- (2) The state noxious weed control board;
- (3) The department of ecology;
- (4) The department of fish and wildlife;
- (5) The department of transportation;

- (6) The parks and recreation commission;
- (7) The department of natural resources;
- (8) The department of corrections;
- (9) The department of enterprise services;
- (10) Each state institution of higher education, for the institution's own building and grounds maintenance;
- (11) Each county noxious weed control board; and
- (12) Each weed district. [2021 c 217 s 17; 2015 c 225 s 16; 1997 c 357 s 3.]

**RCW 17.15.030 Integrated pest management training—Designated coordinator.**

(1) A state agency or institution listed in RCW 17.15.020 shall provide integrated pest management training for employees responsible for pest management.

(2) A state agency or institution listed in RCW 17.15.020 shall designate an integrated pest management coordinator. [2011 c 103 s 36; 1997 c 357 s 4.]

**Purpose—2011 c 103:** See note following RCW 15.26.120.

**Chapter 17.21 RCW**  
**WASHINGTON PESTICIDE APPLICATION ACT**

**Sections**

- 17.21.010 Declaration of police power and purpose.
- 17.21.020 Definitions.
- 17.21.030 Director's authority—Rules.
- 17.21.040 Rules subject to administrative procedure act.
- 17.21.050 Hearings—Administrative procedure act.
- 17.21.060 Subpoenas—Witness fees.
- 17.21.065 Classification of licenses.
- 17.21.070 Commercial pesticide applicator license—Requirements.
- 17.21.080 Commercial pesticide applicator license—Application—  
Form.
- 17.21.091 Commercial pesticide applicator license—Persons who may  
apply under license authority.
- 17.21.100 Recordkeeping by licensees and agricultural users.
- 17.21.110 Commercial pesticide operator license—Requirements.
- 17.21.122 Private-commercial pesticide applicator license—  
Requirements.
- 17.21.126 Private applicator, limited private applicator, or rancher  
private applicator—Requirements—Application for  
license—Fees.
- 17.21.128 Renewal of certificate or license—Recertification  
standards.
- 17.21.129 Demonstration and research license—Fees—Requirements.
- 17.21.130 Revocation, suspension, or denial.
- 17.21.132 License, certification—Applications—Fee—Expiration  
dates.
- 17.21.134 Licenses—Examination requirements—Fees.
- 17.21.140 Renewal—Delinquency.
- 17.21.150 Violation of chapter—Unlawful acts.
- 17.21.160 Commercial pesticide applicator license—Financial  
responsibility.
- 17.21.170 Commercial pesticide applicator license—Amount of bond or  
insurance required—Notice of reduction or cancellation  
by surety or insurer.
- 17.21.180 Commercial pesticide applicator license—Suspension of  
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- 17.21.190 Damages due to use or application of pesticide—Report of  
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- 17.21.200 Commercial pesticide applicator license—Exemptions.
- 17.21.203 Government research personnel—Requirements.
- 17.21.220 Application of chapter to governmental entities—Public  
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- 17.21.280 Disposition of revenue, enforcement of chapter—Pesticide  
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fines, penalties, and forfeitures.
- 17.21.290 Pesticide application apparatuses—License plate as  
identification.
- 17.21.300 Agreements with other governmental entities.
- 17.21.305 Licensing by cities of first class and counties.
- 17.21.310 General penalty.

- 17.21.315 Civil penalty for failure to comply with chapter.
- 17.21.320 Access to public or private premises—Search warrants—  
Prosecuting attorney's duties—Injunctions.
- 17.21.340 Violation of chapter—Remedies.
- 17.21.350 Report to legislature.
- 17.21.400 Landscape or right-of-way applications—Notice.
- 17.21.410 Landscape applications—Marking of property, posting  
requirements.
- 17.21.415 Schools—Policies and methods—Notification—Records—  
Liability.
- 17.21.420 Pesticide-sensitive individuals—List procedure.
- 17.21.430 Pesticide-sensitive individuals—Notification.
- 17.21.440 Agricultural workers and handlers of agricultural  
pesticides—Coordination of regulation and enforcement  
with department of labor and industries.
- 17.21.445 Protection of pollinator health—Report to the  
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- 17.21.450 Application of certain pesticides by noncertified  
applicators—Standards adopted by rule.
- 17.21.455 Pesticide advisory board—Established—Membership.
- 17.21.460 Pesticide advisory board—Election of chair—Authority to  
call a meeting.
- 17.21.900 Preexisting liabilities not affected.
- 17.21.920 Short title.

**RCW 17.21.010 Declaration of police power and purpose.** The application and the control of the use of various pesticides is important and vital to the maintenance of a high level of public health and welfare both immediate and future, and is hereby declared to be affected with the public interest. The provisions of this chapter are enacted in the exercise of the police power of the state for the purpose of protecting the immediate and future health and welfare of the people of the state. [1967 c 177 s 1; 1961 c 249 s 1.]

*Washington pesticide control act: Chapter 15.58 RCW.*

**RCW 17.21.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Agricultural commodity" means any plant or part of a plant, or animal, or animal product, produced by a person (including farmers, ranchers, vineyardists, plant propagators, Christmas tree growers, aquaculturists, floriculturists, orchardists, foresters, or other comparable persons) primarily for sale, consumption, propagation, or other use by people or animals.

(2) "Agricultural land" means land on which an agricultural commodity is produced or land that is in a government-recognized conservation reserve program. This definition does not apply to private gardens where agricultural commodities are produced for personal consumption.

(3) "Antimicrobial pesticide" means a pesticide that is used for the control of microbial pests, including but not limited to viruses, bacteria, algae, and protozoa, and is intended for use as a disinfectant or sanitizer.

(4) "Apparatus" means any type of ground, water, or aerial equipment, device, or contrivance using motorized, mechanical, or pressurized power and used to apply pesticides that are mounted, attached to, pulled, or carried on any vehicle, trailer, aircraft, vessel, or all-terrain vehicle designed primarily for transportation and movement, but does not include a device that is handheld, carried by the applicator, or placed in position for a sedentary timed or metered application.

(5) "Arthropod" means any invertebrate animal that belongs to the phylum arthropoda, which in addition to insects, includes allied classes whose members are wingless and usually have more than six legs; for example, spiders, mites, ticks, centipedes, and isopod crustaceans.

(6) "Certified applicator" means any individual who is licensed as a commercial pesticide applicator, commercial pesticide operator, public operator, private-commercial applicator, demonstration and research applicator, private applicator, limited private applicator, rancher private applicator, or any other individual who is certified by the director to use or supervise the use of any pesticide which is classified by the EPA or the director as a restricted use pesticide.

(7) "Commercial pesticide applicator" means any person who engages in the business of applying pesticides to the land of another.

(8) "Commercial pesticide operator" means any employee of a commercial pesticide applicator who uses or supervises the use of any pesticide and who is required to be licensed under provisions of this chapter.

(9) "Defoliant" means any substance or mixture of substances intended to cause the leaves or foliage to drop from a plant with or without causing abscission.

(10) "Department" means the Washington state department of agriculture.

(11) "Desiccant" means any substance or mixture of substances intended to artificially accelerate the drying of plant tissues.

(12) "Device" means any instrument or contrivance intended to trap, destroy, control, repel, or mitigate pests, but not including equipment used for the application of pesticides when sold separately from the pesticides.

(13) "Direct supervision" by certified private applicators shall mean that the designated restricted use pesticide shall be applied for purposes of producing any agricultural commodity on land owned or rented by the applicator or the applicator's employer, by a competent person acting under the instructions and control of a certified private applicator who is immediately available, even though such certified private applicator is not physically present at the time and place the pesticide is applied. The certified private applicator shall have direct management responsibility and familiarity of the pesticide, manner of application, pest, and land to which the pesticide is being applied. Direct supervision by all other certified applicators means direct on-the-job supervision and shall require that the certified applicator be physically present at the application site and that the person making the application be in voice and visual contact with the certified applicator at all times during the application. However, direct supervision for forest application does not require constant voice and visual contact when general use pesticides are applied using nonapparatus type equipment, the certified applicator is physically present and readily available in the immediate application area, and the certified applicator directly

observes pesticide mixing and batching. Direct supervision of an aerial apparatus means the pilot of the aircraft must be appropriately certified.

(14) "Director" means the director of the department or a duly authorized representative.

(15) "Engage in business" means any application of pesticides by any person upon lands or crops of another.

(16) "EPA" means the United States environmental protection agency.

(17) "EPA restricted use pesticide" means any pesticide classified for restricted use by the administrator, EPA.

(18) "FIFRA" means the federal insecticide, fungicide and rodenticide act as amended (61 Stat. 163, 7 U.S.C. Sec. 136 et seq.).

(19) "Forest application" means the application of pesticides to agricultural land used to grow trees for the commercial production of wood or wood fiber for products such as dimensional lumber, shakes, plywood, poles, posts, pilings, particle board, hardboard, oriented strand board, pulp, paper, cardboard, or other similar products.

(20) "Fumigant" means any pesticide product or combination of products that is a vapor or gas or forms a vapor or gas on application and whose method of pesticidal action is through the gaseous state.

(21) "Fungi" means all nonchlorophyll-bearing thallophytes (all nonchlorophyll-bearing plants of lower order than mosses and liverworts); for example, rusts, smuts, mildews, molds, and yeasts, except those on or in a living person or other animals.

(22) "Fungicide" means any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate any fungi.

(23) "Herbicide" means any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate any weed or other higher plant.

(24) "Immediate service call" means a landscape application to satisfy an emergency customer request for service, or a treatment to control a pest to landscape plants.

(25) "Insect" means any small invertebrate animal, in any life stage, whose adult form is segmented and which generally belongs to the class insecta, comprised of six-legged, usually winged forms, as, for example, beetles, bugs, bees, and flies. The term insect shall also apply to other allied classes of arthropods whose members are wingless and usually have more than six legs, for example, spiders, mites, ticks, centipedes, and isopod crustaceans.

(26) "Insecticide" means any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate any insect.

(27) "Land" means all land and water areas, including airspace and all plants, animals, structures, buildings, devices, and contrivances, appurtenant to or situated on, fixed or mobile, including any used for transportation.

(28) "Landscape application" means an application of any EPA registered pesticide to any exterior landscape area around residential property, commercial properties such as apartments or shopping centers, parks, golf courses, schools including nursery schools and licensed day cares, or cemeteries or similar areas. This definition shall not apply to: (a) Applications made by private applicators, limited private applicators, or rancher private applicators; (b) mosquito abatement, gypsy moth eradication, or similar wide-area pest control programs sponsored by governmental entities; and (c) commercial pesticide applicators making structural applications.

(29) "Limited private applicator" means a certified applicator who uses or is in direct supervision, as defined for private applicators in this section, of the use of any herbicide classified by the EPA or the director as a restricted use pesticide, for the sole purpose of controlling weeds on nonproduction agricultural land owned or rented by the applicator or the applicator's employer. Limited private applicators may also use restricted use pesticides on timber areas, excluding aquatic sites, to control weeds designated for mandatory control under chapters 17.04, 17.06, and 17.10 RCW and state and local regulations adopted under chapters 17.04, 17.06, and 17.10 RCW. A limited private applicator may apply restricted use herbicides to the types of land described in this subsection of another person if applied without compensation other than trading of personal services between the applicator and the other person. This license is only valid when making applications in counties of Washington located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains.

(30) "Limited production agricultural land" means land used to grow hay and grain crops that are consumed by the livestock on the farm where produced. No more than ten percent of the hay and grain crops grown on limited production agricultural land may be sold each crop year. Limited production agricultural land does not include aquatic sites.

(31) "Mishap" means an event that adversely affects humans or the environment and that is related to the use or presence of a pesticide whether the event was unexpected or unintentional.

(32) "Nematocide" means any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate nematodes.

(33) "Nematode" means any invertebrate animal of the phylum nemathelminthes and class nematoda, that is, unsegmented round worms with elongated, fusiform, or saclike bodies covered with cuticle, and inhabiting soil, water, plants or plant parts. Nematodes may also be called nemas or eelworms.

(34) "Noncertified applicator" means an individual who is not licensed by the director in accordance with this chapter to use or supervise the use of any pesticide that is classified by EPA or the director as a restricted use pesticide in the classification appropriate to the type of application being conducted.

(35) "Nonproduction agricultural land" means pastures, rangeland, fencerows, and areas around farm buildings but not aquatic sites.

(36) "Person" means any individual, partnership, association, corporation, or organized group of persons whether or not incorporated.

(37) "Pest" means, but is not limited to, any insect, rodent, nematode, snail, slug, weed, and any form of plant or animal life or virus, except virus, bacteria, or other microorganisms on or in a living person or other animal or in or on processed food or beverages or pharmaceuticals, which is normally considered to be a pest, or which the director may declare to be a pest.

(38) "Pesticide" means, but is not limited to:

(a) Any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, control, repel, or mitigate any pest;

(b) Any substance or mixture of substances intended to be used as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant; and

(c) Any spray adjuvant as defined in RCW 15.58.030.

(39) "Plant regulator" means any substance or mixture of substances intended through physiological action, to accelerate or retard the rate of growth or maturation, or to otherwise alter the

behavior of ornamental or crop plants or their produce, but shall not include substances insofar as they are intended to be used as plant nutrients, trace elements, nutritional chemicals, plant inoculants, or soil amendments.

(40) "Private applicator" means a certified applicator who uses or is in direct supervision of the use of any pesticide classified by the EPA or the director as a restricted use pesticide, for the purposes of producing any agricultural commodity and for any associated noncrop application on land owned or rented by the applicator or the applicator's employer or if applied without compensation other than trading of personal services between producers of agricultural commodities on the land of another person.

(41) "Private-commercial applicator" means a certified applicator who uses or supervises the use of any pesticide classified by the EPA or the director as a restricted use pesticide for purposes other than the production of any agricultural commodity on lands owned or rented by the applicator or the applicator's employer.

(42) "Rancher private applicator" means a certified applicator who uses or is in direct supervision, as defined for private applicators in this section, of the use of any herbicide or any rodenticide classified by the EPA or the director as a restricted use pesticide for the purpose of controlling weeds and pest animals on nonproduction agricultural land and limited production agricultural land owned or rented by the applicator or the applicator's employer. Rancher private applicators may also use restricted use pesticides on timber areas, excluding aquatic sites, to control weeds designated for mandatory control under chapters 17.04, 17.06, and 17.10 RCW and state and local regulations adopted under chapters 17.04, 17.06, and 17.10 RCW. A rancher private applicator may apply restricted use herbicides and rodenticides to the types of land described in this subsection of another person if applied without compensation other than trading of personal services between the applicator and the other person. This license is only valid when making applications in counties of Washington located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains.

(43) "Residential property" includes property less than one acre in size zoned as residential by a city, town, or county, but does not include property zoned as agricultural or agricultural homesites.

(44) "Restricted use pesticide" means any pesticide or device which, when used as directed or in accordance with a widespread and commonly recognized practice, the director determines, subsequent to a hearing, requires additional restrictions for that use to prevent unreasonable adverse effects on the environment including people, lands, beneficial insects, animals, crops, and wildlife, other than pests.

(45) "Rodenticide" means any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate rodents, or any other vertebrate animal which the director may declare by rule to be a pest.

(46) "School facility" means any facility used for licensed day care center purposes or for the purposes of a public kindergarten or public elementary or secondary school. School facility includes the buildings or structures, playgrounds, landscape areas, athletic fields, school vehicles, or any other area of school property.

(47) "Snails or slugs" include all harmful mollusks.

(48) "Unreasonable adverse effects on the environment" means any unreasonable risk to people or the environment taking into account the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of the use of any pesticide, or as otherwise determined by the director.



(49) "Use" as in "to use a pesticide," means:

(a) Whenever the "restricted use pesticide" designation statement appears on a pesticide label, "use" means any of the following:

(i) Preapplication activities involving mixing and loading the pesticide;

(ii) Applying the pesticide including, but not limited to, supervising the use of a pesticide by a noncertified applicator; and

(iii) Other pesticide-related activities including, but not limited to, transporting or storing pesticide containers that have been opened, cleaning equipment, and disposing of excess pesticides, spray mix, equipment wash waters, pesticide containers, and other pesticide-containing materials.

(b) Whenever the "restricted use pesticide" designation statement does not appear on a pesticide label, "use" means any of the following:

(i) Preapplication activities involving mixing and loading the pesticide;

(ii) Applying the pesticide including, but not limited to, supervising the use of a pesticide by a noncertified applicator; and

(iii) Other activities required by the label instructions.

(50) "Use-specific instruction" means the information and requirements specific to a particular pesticide product or worksite that an applicator needs in order to use the pesticide in accordance with applicable requirements and without causing unreasonable adverse effects.

(51) "Weed" means any plant which grows where it is not wanted. [2023 c 186 s 1; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7 s 134; 2004 c 100 s 1; 2002 c 122 s 2; (2002 c 122 s 1 expired July 1, 2002); 2001 c 333 s 1; 1994 c 283 s 1; 1992 c 176 s 1; 1989 c 380 s 33; 1979 c 92 s 1; 1971 ex.s. c 191 s 1; 1967 c 177 s 2; 1961 c 249 s 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

**Effective date—2004 c 100:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2005." [2004 c 100 s 7.]

**Effective dates—2002 c 122:** "(1) Section 1 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 26, 2002].

(2) Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1, 2002." [2002 c 122 s 3.]

**Expiration date—2002 c 122 s 1:** "Section 1 of this act expires July 1, 2002." [2002 c 122 s 4.]

**Effective date—2001 c 333:** "Except for \*section 7 of this act, this act takes effect July 1, 2002." [2001 c 333 s 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Section 7 of this act was vetoed.

**RCW 17.21.030 Director's authority—Rules.** The director shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter.

(1) The director may adopt rules:

(a) Governing the loading, mixing, application and use, or prohibiting the loading, mixing, application, or use of any pesticide;

(b) Governing the time when, and the conditions under which restricted use pesticides shall or shall not be used in different areas as prescribed by the director in the state;

(c) Providing that any or all restricted use pesticides shall be purchased, possessed or used only under permit of the director and under the director's direct supervision in certain areas and/or under certain conditions or in certain quantities or concentrations; however, any person licensed to sell such pesticides may purchase and possess such pesticides without a permit;

(d) Establishing recordkeeping requirements for licensees, permittees, and certified applicators;

(e) Governing the fixing and collecting of examination fees;

(f) Fixing and collecting fees for recertification course sponsorship;

(g) Establishing testing procedures, licensing classifications, and requirements for licenses and permits, and criteria for assigning recertification credit to and procedures for department approval of courses as provided by this chapter;

(h) Concerning training by employers for employees who mix and load pesticides;

(i) Concerning minimum performance standards for spray boom and nozzles used in pesticide applications to minimize spray drift and establishing a list of approved spray nozzles that meet these standards; and

(j) Fixing and collecting permit fees.

(2) The director may adopt any other rules necessary to carry out the purpose and provisions of this chapter. [2020 c 180 s 3; 1994 c 283 s 2; 1989 c 380 s 34; 1987 c 45 s 26; 1979 c 92 s 2; 1961 c 249 s 3.]

**Construction—Severability—1987 c 45:** See notes following RCW 15.54.270.

**RCW 17.21.040 Rules subject to administrative procedure act.**

All rules adopted under the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW as enacted or hereafter amended, concerning the adoption of rules. [1989 c 380 s 35; 1961 c 249 s 4.]

**RCW 17.21.050 Hearings—Administrative procedure act.**

All hearings for the imposition of a civil penalty and/or the suspension, denial, or revocation of a license, certification, or permit issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW concerning adjudicative proceedings. [1994 c 283 s 3. Prior: 1989 c 380 s 36; 1989 c 175 s 58; 1985 c 158 s 4; 1961 c 249 s 5.]

**Effective date—1989 c 175:** See note following RCW 34.05.010.

**RCW 17.21.060 Subpoenas—Witness fees.** The director may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and/or production of books, documents, and records anywhere in the state in any hearing affecting the authority or privilege granted by a license, certification, or permit issued under the provisions of this chapter. Witnesses shall be entitled to fees for attendance and travel as provided for in chapter 2.40 RCW as enacted or hereafter amended. [1994 c 283 s 4; 1961 c 249 s 6.]

**RCW 17.21.065 Classification of licenses.** The director may classify licenses to be issued under the provisions of this chapter. These classifications may include but are not limited to pest control operators, ornamental sprayers, agricultural crop sprayers or right-of-way sprayers; separate classifications may be specified as to ground, aerial, or manual methods used by any licensee to apply pesticides.

Each such classification shall be subject to separate testing procedures and requirements. No person shall be required to pay an additional license fee if such person desires to be licensed in one or all of the license classifications provided for by the director under the authority of this section, except as provided for in RCW 17.21.110. [1994 c 283 s 5; 1967 c 177 s 17.]

**RCW 17.21.070 Commercial pesticide applicator license—Requirements.** It is unlawful for any person to engage in the business of applying pesticides to the land of another without a commercial pesticide applicator license. Application for a commercial applicator license must be accompanied by a fee of two hundred forty-three dollars and in addition a fee of twenty-seven dollars for each apparatus, exclusive of one, used by the applicant in the application of pesticides. [2021 c 244 s 8; 2008 c 285 s 21; 1997 c 242 s 11; 1994 c 283 s 6; 1993 sp.s. c 19 s 4; 1991 c 109 s 30; 1989 c 380 s 37; 1981 c 297 s 21; 1967 c 177 s 3; 1961 c 249 s 7.]

**Effective date—2021 c 244:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Effective date—2008 c 285 ss 15-26:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Intent—Captions not law—2008 c 285:** See notes following RCW 43.22.434.

**Effective date—1997 c 242:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Severability—1981 c 297:** See note following RCW 15.36.201.

**RCW 17.21.080 Commercial pesticide applicator license—Application—Form.** Application for a commercial pesticide applicator license provided for in RCW 17.21.070 shall be on a form prescribed by the director.

- (1) The application shall include the following information:
  - (a) The full name of the individual applying for such license.

(b) The full name of the business the individual represents with the license.

(c) If the applicant is an individual, receiver, trustee, firm, partnership, association, corporation, or any other organized group of persons whether incorporated or not, the full name of each member of the firm or partnership, or the names of the officers of the association, corporation or group.

(d) The principal business address of the applicant in the state or elsewhere.

(e) The name of a person whose domicile is in the state, and who is authorized to receive and accept services of summons and legal notice of all kinds for the applicant.

(f) The model, make, horsepower, and size of any apparatus used by the applicant to apply pesticides.

(g) License classification or classifications for which the applicant is applying.

(h) A list of the names of individuals allowed to apply pesticides under the authority of the commercial applicator's license.

(i) Any other necessary information prescribed by the director.

(2) Any changes to the information provided on the prescribed commercial applicator form shall be reported by the business to the department within thirty days of the change. [1994 c 283 s 7; 1989 c 380 s 38; 1967 c 177 s 4; 1961 c 249 s 8.]

**RCW 17.21.091 Commercial pesticide applicator license—Persons who may apply under license authority.** (1) No commercial pesticide applicator shall allow a person to apply pesticides under the authority of the commercial pesticide applicator's license unless the commercial pesticide applicator has, by mail or facsimile transmissions, submitted the name to the department on a form prescribed by the department as provided in RCW 17.21.080(2). The department shall maintain a list for each commercial pesticide applicator of persons authorized to apply pesticides under the authority of the commercial pesticide applicator's license.

(2) Violations of this chapter by a person acting as an employee, agent, or otherwise acting on behalf of or under the license authority of a commercial pesticide applicator, may, in the discretion of the department, be treated as a violation by the commercial pesticide applicator. [1994 c 283 s 8.]

**RCW 17.21.100 Recordkeeping by licensees and agricultural users.**

(1) Certified applicators licensed under the provisions of this chapter, persons required to be licensed under this chapter, all persons applying pesticides to more than one acre of agricultural land in a calendar year, including public entities engaged in roadside spraying of pesticides, and all other persons making landscape applications of pesticides to types of property listed in RCW 17.21.410(1) (b), (c), (d), and (e), shall keep records for each application which shall include the following information:

(a) The location of the land where the pesticide was applied;

(b) The year, month, day and beginning and ending time of the application of the pesticide each day the pesticide was applied;

(c) The product name used on the registered label and the United States environmental protection agency registration number, if applicable, of the pesticide which was applied;

(d) The crop or site to which the pesticide was applied;

(e) The amount of pesticide applied per acre or other appropriate measure;

(f) The concentration of pesticide that was applied;

(g) The number of acres, or other appropriate measure, to which the pesticide was applied;

(h) The licensed applicator's name, address, and telephone number and the name of the individual or individuals making the application and their license number, if applicable;

(i) The direction and estimated velocity of the wind during the time the pesticide was applied. This subsection (i) shall not apply to applications of baits in bait stations and pesticide applications within structures; and

(j) Any other reasonable information required by the director in rule.

(2) (a) The required information shall be recorded on the same day that a pesticide is applied.

(b) A commercial pesticide applicator who applies a pesticide to an agricultural crop or agricultural lands shall provide a copy of the records required under subsection (1) of this section for the application to the owner, or to the lessee if applied on behalf of the lessee, of the lands to which the pesticide is applied. Records provided by a commercial pesticide applicator to the owner or lessee of agricultural lands under this subsection need not be provided on a form adopted by the department.

(3) The records required under this section shall be maintained and preserved by the licensed pesticide applicator or such other person or entity applying the pesticides for no less than seven years from the date of the application of the pesticide to which such records refer. If the pesticide was applied by a commercial pesticide applicator to the agricultural crop or agricultural lands of a person who employs one or more employees, as "employee" is defined in RCW 49.70.020, the records shall also be kept by the employer for a period of seven years from the date of the application of the pesticide to which the records refer.

(4) (a) The pesticide records shall be readily accessible to the department for inspection. Copies of the records shall be provided on request to: The department; the department of labor and industries; treating health care personnel initiating diagnostic testing or therapy for a patient with a suspected case of pesticide poisoning; the department of health; and, in the case of an industrial insurance claim filed under Title 51 RCW with the department of labor and industries, the employee or the employee's designated representative. In addition, the director may require the submission of the records on a routine basis within thirty days of the application of any restricted use pesticide in prescribed areas controlling the use of the restricted use pesticide. When a request for records is made under this subsection by treating health care personnel and the record is required for determining treatment, copies of the record shall be provided immediately. For all other requests, copies of the record shall be provided within seventy-two hours.

(b) Copies of records provided to a person or entity under this subsection (4) shall, if so requested, be provided on a form adopted under subsection (7) of this section. Information for treating health

care personnel shall be made immediately available by telephone, if requested, with a copy of the records provided within twenty-four hours.

(5) If a request for a copy of the record is made under this section from an applicator referred to in subsection (1) of this section and the applicator refuses to provide a copy, the requester may notify the department of the request and the applicator's refusal. Within seven working days, the department shall request that the applicator provide the department with all pertinent copies of the records, except that in a medical emergency the request shall be made within two working days. The applicator shall provide copies of the records to the department within twenty-four hours after the department's request.

(6) The department shall include inspection of the records required under this section as part of any on-site inspection conducted under this chapter on agricultural lands. The inspection shall determine whether the records are readily transferable to a form adopted by the department and are readily accessible to employees. However, no person subject to a department inspection may be inspected under this subsection (6) more than once in any calendar year, unless a previous inspection has found recordkeeping violations. If recordkeeping violations are found, the department may conduct reasonable multiple inspections, pursuant to rules adopted by the department. Nothing in this subsection (6) limits the department's inspection of records pertaining to pesticide-related injuries, illnesses, fatalities, accidents, or complaints.

(7) The department of agriculture and the department of labor and industries shall jointly adopt, by rule, forms that satisfy the information requirements of this section. [2011 c 103 s 37; 1994 c 283 s 9; 1992 c 173 s 1; 1989 c 380 s 39; 1987 c 45 s 28; 1971 ex.s. c 191 s 3; 1961 c 249 s 10.]

**Purpose—2011 c 103:** See note following RCW 15.26.120.

**Effective dates—1992 c 173:** "(1) Sections 1 through 3 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [April 1, 1992].

(2) Section 4 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1993." [1992 c 173 s 5.]

**Construction—Severability—1987 c 45:** See notes following RCW 15.54.270.

#### **RCW 17.21.110 Commercial pesticide operator license—**

**Requirements.** It is unlawful for any person to act as an employee of a commercial pesticide applicator and apply pesticides manually or as the operator directly in charge of any apparatus which is licensed or should be licensed under this chapter for the application of any pesticide, without having obtained a commercial pesticide operator license from the director. The commercial pesticide operator license is in addition to any other license or permit required by law for the operation or use of any such apparatus. Application for a commercial operator license must be accompanied by a fee of seventy-eight

dollars. This section does not apply to any individual who is a licensed commercial pesticide applicator. [2021 c 244 s 9; 2008 c 285 s 22; 1997 c 242 s 12; 1994 c 283 s 10; 1993 sp.s. c 19 s 5; 1992 c 170 s 5; 1991 c 109 s 31; 1989 c 380 s 40; 1981 c 297 s 22; 1967 c 177 s 6; 1961 c 249 s 11.]

**Effective date—2021 c 244:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Effective date—2008 c 285 ss 15-26:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Intent—Captions not law—2008 c 285:** See notes following RCW 43.22.434.

**Effective date—1997 c 242:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Severability—1981 c 297:** See note following RCW 15.36.201.

**RCW 17.21.122 Private-commercial pesticide applicator license—Requirements.** It is unlawful for any person to act as a private-commercial pesticide applicator without having obtained a private-commercial pesticide applicator license from the director. Application for a private-commercial pesticide applicator license must be accompanied by a fee of thirty-eight dollars. [2021 c 244 s 10; 2008 c 285 s 23; 1997 c 242 s 13; 1994 c 283 s 11; 1993 sp.s. c 19 s 6; 1992 c 170 s 6; 1991 c 109 s 32; 1989 c 380 s 41; 1979 c 92 s 6.]

**Effective date—2021 c 244:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Effective date—2008 c 285 ss 15-26:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Intent—Captions not law—2008 c 285:** See notes following RCW 43.22.434.

**Effective date—1997 c 242:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**RCW 17.21.126 Private applicator, limited private applicator, or rancher private applicator—Requirements—Application for license—Fees.** It is unlawful for any person to act as a private applicator, limited private applicator, or rancher private applicator without first complying with requirements determined by the director as necessary to prevent unreasonable adverse effects on the environment, including injury to the pesticide applicator or other persons, for each specific pesticide use.

(1) Certification standards to determine the individual's competency with respect to the use and handling of the pesticide or class of pesticides for which the private applicator, limited private applicator, or rancher private applicator is certified must be relative to hazards of the particular type of application, class of pesticides, or handling procedure. In determining these standards the director must take into consideration standards of the EPA and is authorized to adopt these standards by rule.

(2) Application for a private applicator license must be accompanied by a fee of thirty-eight dollars. Application for a limited private applicator license must be accompanied by a fee of thirty-three dollars. Application for a rancher private applicator license must be accompanied by a fee of one hundred three dollars. Individuals with a valid certified applicator license, pest control consultant license, or dealer manager license who qualify in the appropriate statewide or agricultural license categories are exempt from the private applicator, limited private applicator, or rancher private applicator fee requirements. However, licensed public pesticide operators, otherwise exempted from the public pesticide operator license fee requirement, are not also exempted from the fee requirements under this subsection. [2021 c 244 s 11; 2008 c 285 s 24; 2004 c 100 s 2; 1997 c 242 s 14; 1994 c 283 s 12; 1993 sp.s. c 19 s 7; 1992 c 170 s 7; 1991 c 109 s 33; 1989 c 380 s 42; 1979 c 92 s 8.]

**Effective date—2021 c 244:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Effective date—2008 c 285 ss 15-26:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Intent—Captions not law—2008 c 285:** See notes following RCW 43.22.434.

**Effective date—2004 c 100:** See note following RCW 17.21.020.

**Effective date—1997 c 242:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**RCW 17.21.128 Renewal of certificate or license—Recertification standards.** (1) The director may renew any certification or license issued under authority of this chapter subject to the recertification standards identified in subsection (2) of this section or an examination requiring new knowledge that may be required to apply pesticides.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, all individuals licensed under this chapter shall meet the recertification standards identified in (a) or (b) of this subsection, every five years, in order to qualify for continuing licensure.

(a) Licensed pesticide applicators may qualify for continued licensure through accumulation of recertification credits.

(i) Private applicators shall accumulate a minimum of twenty department-approved credits every five years with no more than ten credits allowed per year;

(ii) Limited private applicators shall accumulate a minimum of eight department-approved credits every five years. All credits must be applicable to the control of weeds with at least one-half of the credits directly related to weed control and the remaining credits in topic areas indirectly related to weed control, such as the safe and legal use of pesticides;

(iii) Rancher private applicators shall accumulate a minimum of twelve department-approved credits every five years;

(iv) All other license types established under this chapter shall accumulate a minimum of forty department-approved credits every five years with no more than fifteen credits allowed per year.



(b) Certified pesticide applicators may qualify for continued licensure through meeting the examination requirements necessary to become licensed in those areas in which the licensee operates.

(3) At the termination of a licensee's five-year recertification period, the director may waive the requirements identified in subsection (2) of this section if the licensee can demonstrate that he or she is meeting comparable recertification standards through another state or jurisdiction or through a federal environmental protection agency approved government agency plan. [2005 c 397 s 1; 2004 c 100 s 3; 1994 c 283 s 13; 1986 c 203 s 9; 1979 c 92 s 9.]

**Effective date—2004 c 100:** See note following RCW 17.21.020.

**RCW 17.21.129 Demonstration and research license—Fees—**

**Requirements.** Except as provided in RCW 17.21.203, it is unlawful for a person to use or supervise the use of any experimental use pesticide or any restricted use pesticide on small experimental plots for research purposes when no charge is made for the pesticide and its application without a demonstration and research applicator's license.

(1) Application for a demonstration and research license must be accompanied by a fee of forty-three dollars.

(2) Persons licensed under this section are exempt from the requirements of RCW 17.21.160, 17.21.170, and 17.21.180. [2021 c 244 s 12; 2008 c 285 s 25; 1997 c 242 s 15; 1994 c 283 s 14; 1993 sp.s. c 19 s 8; 1992 c 170 s 8; 1991 c 109 s 34; 1989 c 380 s 43; 1987 c 45 s 30; 1981 c 297 s 26.]

**Effective date—2021 c 244:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Effective date—2008 c 285 ss 15-26:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Intent—Captions not law—2008 c 285:** See notes following RCW 43.22.434.

**Effective date—1997 c 242:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Construction—Severability—1987 c 45:** See notes following RCW 15.54.270.

**Severability—1981 c 297:** See note following RCW 15.36.201.

**RCW 17.21.130 Revocation, suspension, or denial.** (1) Any license, permit, or certification provided for in this chapter may be revoked or suspended, and any license, permit, or certification application may be denied by the director for cause. If the director suspends a license under this chapter with respect to activity of a continuing nature under chapter 34.05 RCW, the director may elect to suspend the license for a subsequent license year during a period that coincides with the period commencing 30 days before and ending 30 days after the date of the incident or incidents giving rise to the violation.

(2) The director shall immediately suspend the license or certificate of a person who has been certified pursuant to RCW

74.20A.320 by the department of social and health services as a person who is not in compliance with a support order. If the person has continued to meet all other requirements for reinstatement during the suspension, reissuance of the license or certificate shall be automatic upon the director's receipt of a release issued by the department of social and health services stating that the licensee is in compliance with the order.

(3) The director may elect to suspend or revoke any license or certification that is based in whole or in part on a license or certification from another state or jurisdiction upon notification that the applicator's original certification was terminated because the certified applicator has been convicted under section 14(b) of FIFRA or has been subject to a final order imposing a civil penalty under section 14(a) of FIFRA. [2023 c 186 s 2; 1997 c 58 s 877; 1994 c 283 s 15; 1989 c 380 s 46; 1986 c 203 s 10; 1961 c 249 s 13.]

**Short title—Part headings, captions, table of contents not law—Exemptions and waivers from federal law—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1997 c 58:** See RCW 74.08A.900 through 74.08A.904.

**Effective dates—Intent—1997 c 58:** See notes following RCW 74.20A.320.

**RCW 17.21.132 License, certification—Applications—Fee—Expiration dates.** Any person applying for a license or certification authorized under the provisions of this chapter shall file an application on a form prescribed by the director.

(1) The application shall state the license or certification and the classification(s) for which the applicant is applying and the method in which the pesticides are to be applied.

(2) For all classes of licenses, all applicants shall be at least 18 years of age on the date that the application is made.

(3) Application for a license to apply pesticides shall be accompanied by the required fee. No license may be issued until the required fee has been received by the department.

(4) Each classification of license issued under this chapter except the limited private applicator and the rancher private applicator expires annually on a date set by rule by the director. Limited and rancher private applicator licenses expire on the fifth December 31st after issuance. Renewal applications shall be filed on or before the applicable expiration date. [2023 c 186 s 3; 2004 c 100 s 4; 1997 c 242 s 16; 1994 c 283 s 16; 1991 c 109 s 35; 1989 c 380 s 44.]

**Effective date—2004 c 100:** See note following RCW 17.21.020.

**RCW 17.21.134 Licenses—Examination requirements—Fees.** (1) The director shall not issue a commercial pesticide applicator license until the applicant, if he or she is the sole owner and manager of the business has passed examinations in all classifications that the business operates. If there is more than one owner or the owner does not participate in the pesticide application activities, the person managing the pesticide application activities of the business shall be

licensed in all classifications that the business operates. The director shall not issue a commercial pesticide operator, public operator, private commercial applicator, or demonstration and research applicator license until the applicant has passed an examination demonstrating knowledge of:

(a) How to apply pesticides under the classification for which he or she has applied, manually or with the various apparatuses that he or she may operate;

(b) The nature and effect of pesticides he or she may apply under such classifications; and

(c) Any other matter the director determines to be a necessary subject for examination.

(2) The director may charge examination fees established by the director by rule. The director may administer or contract with a public or private third-party entity to administer any or all parts of either the examination or the collection of examination fees, or both. Examinations administered by third-party entities must be the same as the examination that would otherwise be administered by the department. The department may direct that the applicant pay the fees to the third-party entity in accordance with department rules governing third-party examinations and fees.

(3) The director may prescribe separate testing procedures and requirements for each license. [2020 c 180 s 4; 1994 c 283 s 17; 1989 c 380 s 45.]

**RCW 17.21.140 Renewal—Delinquency.** (1) If the application for renewal of any license provided for in this chapter is not filed on or prior to the expiration date of the license under this chapter or as set by rule by the director, a penalty of twenty-five dollars for the commercial pesticide applicator's license and the rancher private applicator license, and a penalty equivalent to the license fee for any other license, shall be assessed and added to the original fee and shall be paid by the applicant before the renewal license is issued. However, the penalty does not apply if the applicant furnishes an affidavit certifying that he or she has not acted as a licensee subsequent to the expiration of the license.

(2) Any license for which a timely renewal application has been made, all other requirements have been met, and the proper fee paid, continues in full force and effect until the director notifies the applicant that the license has been renewed or the application has been denied. [2004 c 100 s 5; 1991 c 109 s 36; 1989 c 380 s 47; 1961 c 249 s 14.]

**Effective date—2004 c 100:** See note following RCW 17.21.020.

**RCW 17.21.150 Violation of chapter—Unlawful acts.** A person who has committed any of the following acts is declared to be in violation of this chapter:

(1) Made false or fraudulent claims through any media, misrepresenting the effect of materials or methods to be utilized;

(2) Applied worthless or improper pesticides;

(3) Operated a faulty or unsafe apparatus;

(4) Operated in a faulty, careless, or negligent manner;

(5) Refused or neglected to comply with the provisions of this chapter, the rules adopted hereunder, or of any lawful order of the director including a final order of the director directing payment of a civil penalty. In an adjudicative proceeding arising from the department's denial of a license for failure to pay a civil penalty the subject shall be limited to whether the payment was made and the proceeding may not be used to collaterally attack the final order;

(6) Refused or neglected to keep and maintain the pesticide application records required by rule, or to make reports when and as required;

(7) Made false or fraudulent records, invoices, or reports;

(8) Acted as a certified applicator without having provided direct supervision to an unlicensed person;

(9) Operated an unlicensed apparatus or an apparatus without a license plate issued for that particular apparatus;

(10) Used fraud or misrepresentation in making an application for a license or renewal of a license;

(11) Is not qualified to perform the type of pest control under the conditions and in the locality in which he or she operates or has operated, regardless of whether or not he or she has previously passed a pesticide license examination;

(12) Aided or abetted a licensed or an unlicensed person to evade the provisions of this chapter, combined or conspired with such a licensed or an unlicensed person to evade the provisions of this chapter, or allowed one's license to be used by an unlicensed person;

(13) Knowingly made false, misleading, or erroneous statements or reports during or after an inspection concerning any infestation or infection of pests found on land or in connection with any pesticide complaint or investigation;

(14) Impersonated any state, county or city inspector or official;

(15) Applied a restricted use pesticide without having a certified applicator in direct supervision;

(16) Operated a commercial pesticide application business: (a) Without an individual licensed as a commercial pesticide applicator or (b) with a licensed commercial pesticide applicator not licensed in the classification or classifications in which the business operates; or

(17) Operated as a commercial pesticide applicator without meeting the financial responsibility requirements including not having a properly executed financial responsibility insurance certificate or surety bond form on file with the department. [2011 c 103 s 12; 1994 c 283 s 18; 1989 c 380 s 48; 1971 ex.s. c 191 s 4; 1967 c 177 s 8; 1961 c 249 s 15.]

**Purpose—2011 c 103:** See note following RCW 15.26.120.

**RCW 17.21.160 Commercial pesticide applicator license—Financial responsibility.** The director shall not issue a commercial pesticide applicator license until the applicant has furnished evidence of financial responsibility.

(1) Evidence of financial responsibility shall consist of either a surety bond; or a liability insurance policy or certification thereof, protecting persons who may suffer legal damages as a result of the operations of the applicant. The surety bond or liability

insurance policy need not apply to damages or injury to agricultural crops, plants or land being worked upon by the applicant. The director shall not accept a surety bond or liability insurance policy except from authorized insurers in this state or if placed as a surplus line as provided for in chapter 48.15 RCW.

(2) Evidence of financial responsibility shall be supplied to the department on a financial responsibility insurance certificate or surety bond form (blank forms supplied by the department to the applicant). [1994 c 283 s 19; 1989 c 380 s 49; 1967 c 177 s 9; 1961 c 249 s 16.]

**RCW 17.21.170 Commercial pesticide applicator license—Amount of bond or insurance required—Notice of reduction or cancellation by surety or insurer.** The following requirements apply to the amount of bond or insurance required for commercial applicators:

(1) The amount of the surety bond or liability insurance, as provided for in RCW 17.21.160, shall be not less than fifty thousand dollars for property damage and public liability insurance, each separately, and including loss or damage arising out of the actual use of any pesticide. The surety bond or liability insurance shall be maintained at not less than that sum at all times during the licensed period.

(2) The property damage portion of this requirement may be waived by the director if it can be demonstrated by the applicant that all applications performed under this license occur under confined circumstances and on property owned or leased by the applicant.

(3) The director shall be notified ten days before any reduction of insurance coverage at the request of the applicant or cancellation of the surety bond or liability insurance by the surety or insurer and by the insured.

(4) The total and aggregate of the surety and insurer for all claims is limited to the face of the bond or liability insurance policy. The director may accept a liability insurance policy or surety bond in the proper sum which has a deductible clause in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars for all applicators for the total amount of liability insurance or surety bond required by this section, but if the applicant has not satisfied the requirement of the deductible amount in any prior legal claim the deductible clause shall not be accepted by the director unless the applicant furnishes the director with a surety bond or liability insurance which shall satisfy the amount of the deductible as to all claims that may arise in his or her application of pesticides. [2011 c 336 s 460; 1994 c 283 s 20; 1983 c 95 s 7; 1967 c 177 s 10; 1963 c 107 s 1; 1961 c 249 s 17.]

**RCW 17.21.180 Commercial pesticide applicator license—Suspension of license for failure to meet financial responsibility criteria.** The commercial pesticide applicator license shall, whenever the licensee's surety bond or insurance policy is reduced below the requirements of RCW 17.21.170 or whenever the commercial applicator has not supplied evidence of financial responsibility, as required by RCW 17.21.160 and 17.21.170, by the expiration date of the previous policy or surety bond, be automatically suspended until such licensee's surety bond or insurance policy again meets the requirements of RCW 17.21.170. In addition, the director may pick up

such licensee's license plates during such period of automatic suspension and return them only at such time as the licensee has furnished written proof that he or she is in compliance with the provisions of RCW 17.21.170. [1994 c 283 s 21; 1989 c 380 s 50; 1987 c 45 s 31; 1967 c 177 s 11; 1961 c 249 s 18.]

**Construction—Severability—1987 c 45:** See notes following RCW 15.54.270.

**RCW 17.21.190 Damages due to use or application of pesticide—Report of loss required.** Any person suffering property loss or damage resulting from the use or application by others of any pesticide shall file with the director a verified report of loss.

(1) The report shall set forth, so far as known to the claimant, the following:

(a) The name and address of the claimant;

(b) The type, kind, property alleged to be injured or damaged;

(c) The name of the person applying the pesticide and allegedly responsible; and

(d) The name of the owner or occupant of the property for whom such application of the pesticide was made.

(2) The report shall be filed within thirty days from the time that the property loss or damage becomes known to the claimant. If a growing crop is alleged to have been damaged, the report shall be filed prior to harvest of fifty percent of that crop, unless the loss or damage was not then known. The department shall establish time periods by rule to determine investigation response time. Time periods shall range from immediate to forty-eight hours to initiate an investigation, depending on the severity of the damage.

(3) Any person filing a report of loss under this section shall cooperate with the department in conducting an investigation of such a report and shall provide the department or authorized representatives of the department access to any affected property and any other necessary information relevant to the report. If a claimant refuses to cooperate with the department, the report shall not be acted on by the department.

(4) The filing of a report or the failure to file a report need not be alleged in any complaint which might be filed in a court of law, and the failure to file the report shall not be considered any bar to the maintenance of any criminal or civil action.

(5) The failure to file a report shall not be a violation of this chapter. However, if the person failing to file such report is the only one suffering loss from such use or application of a pesticide by a pesticide applicator or operator, the director may refuse to act upon the complaint. [1994 c 283 s 22; 1991 c 263 s 1; 1989 c 380 s 51; 1961 c 249 s 19.]

**RCW 17.21.200 Commercial pesticide applicator license—Exemptions.** The provisions of this chapter relating to commercial pesticide applicator licenses and requirements for their issuance shall not apply to:

(1) Any forestland owner, or his or her employees, applying pesticides with ground apparatus or manually, on his or her own lands or any lands or rights-of-way under his or her control; or

(2) Any farmer owner of ground apparatus applying pesticides for himself or herself or if applied on an occasional basis not amounting to a principal or regular occupation without compensation other than trading of personal services between producers of agricultural commodities on the land of another person; or

(3) Any grounds maintenance person conducting grounds maintenance on an occasional basis not amounting to a regular occupation; or

(4) Persons who apply pesticides as an incidental part of their business, such as dog grooming services or such other businesses as shall be identified by the director.

However, persons exempt under this section shall not use restricted use pesticides and shall not advertise or publicly hold themselves out as pesticide applicators. [1994 c 283 s 23; 1992 c 170 s 9; 1989 c 380 s 52; 1979 c 92 s 3; 1971 ex.s. c 191 s 5; 1967 c 177 s 12; 1961 c 249 s 20.]

**RCW 17.21.203 Government research personnel—Requirements.** The licensing provisions of this chapter shall not apply to research personnel of federal, state, county, or municipal agencies when performing pesticide research in their official capacities, however when such persons are applying restricted use pesticides, they shall be licensed as public operators. [1994 c 283 s 24; 1981 c 297 s 23; 1979 c 92 s 4; 1971 ex.s. c 191 s 9.]

**Severability—1981 c 297:** See note following RCW 15.36.201.

**RCW 17.21.220 Application of chapter to governmental entities—Public operator license required—Exemption—Liability.** (1) All state agencies, municipal corporations, and public utilities or any other governmental agencies are subject to this chapter and its rules.

(2) It is unlawful for any employee of a state agency, municipal corporation, public utility, or any other government agency to use or to supervise the use of any restricted use pesticide, or any pesticide by means of an apparatus, without having obtained a public operator license from the director. Application for a public operator license must be accompanied by a fee of forty-three dollars. The fee does not apply to public operators licensed and working in the health vector field. The public operator license is valid only when the operator is acting as an employee of a government agency.

(3) The jurisdictional health officer or his or her duly authorized representative is exempt from this licensing provision when applying pesticides that are not restricted use pesticides to control pests other than weeds.

(4) Agencies, municipal corporations, and public utilities are subject to legal recourse by any person damaged by such application of any pesticide, and action may be brought in the county where the damage or some part of the damage occurred. [2021 c 244 s 13; 2008 c 285 s 26; 1997 c 242 s 17; 1994 c 283 s 25; 1993 sp.s. c 19 s 9; 1991 c 109 s 37; 1989 c 380 s 53; 1986 c 203 s 11; 1981 c 297 s 24; 1971 ex.s. c 191 s 7; 1967 c 177 s 13; 1961 c 249 s 22.]

**Effective date—2021 c 244:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Effective date—2008 c 285 ss 15-26:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Intent—Captions not law—2008 c 285:** See notes following RCW 43.22.434.

**Effective date—1997 c 242:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Severability—1981 c 297:** See note following RCW 15.36.201.

**RCW 17.21.280 Disposition of revenue, enforcement of chapter—Pesticide safety education program—Fee—District court fees, fines, penalties, and forfeitures.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (4) of this section, all moneys collected under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid to the director and deposited in the agricultural local fund, RCW 43.23.230, for use exclusively in the enforcement of this chapter.

(2) In addition to any other fees the department may collect under this chapter, the department shall collect a fee of seven dollars for each license issued by the department under this chapter. The department shall transmit the seven dollar fee required by this subsection to Washington State University for the purpose of providing a pesticide safety education program to educate and train pesticide licensees and prospective licensees.

(3) The department shall engage with the regulated community on the status of license fees established in this chapter, including consideration of future increases, in coordination with a stakeholder work group.

(4) All moneys collected for civil penalties levied under RCW 17.21.315 shall be deposited in the state general fund. All fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a district court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW. [2021 c 244 s 14; 1997 c 242 s 18; 1994 c 283 s 29; 1989 c 380 s 59; 1987 c 202 s 183; 1969 ex.s. c 199 s 15; 1961 c 249 s 28.]

**Effective date—2021 c 244:** See note following RCW 15.58.070.

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**RCW 17.21.290 Pesticide application apparatuses—License plate as identification.** All licensed apparatuses shall be identified by a license plate furnished by the director, at no cost to the licensee, which plate shall be affixed in a location and manner upon such apparatus as prescribed in rule. [1994 c 283 s 30; 1989 c 380 s 60; 1967 c 177 s 15; 1961 c 249 s 29.]

**RCW 17.21.300 Agreements with other governmental entities.** The director is authorized to cooperate with and enter into agreements with any other agency of the state, the United States, and any other state or agency thereof for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter and securing uniformity of regulation. [1961 c 249 s 30.]



**RCW 17.21.305 Licensing by cities of first class and counties.**

The provisions of this chapter requiring all structural pest control operators, exterminators and fumigators to license with the department shall not preclude a city of the first class with a population of one hundred thousand people or more, or the county in which it is situated, from also licensing structural pest control operators, exterminators and fumigators operating within the territorial confines of said city or county: PROVIDED, That when structural pest control operators, exterminators and fumigators are licensed by both the city of the first class and the county in which the city is situated, and there exists a joint county-city health department, then the joint county-city health department may enforce the provisions of the city and county as to the license requirements for the structural pest control operators, exterminators and fumigators. [1986 c 203 s 12; 1967 c 177 s 19.]

**RCW 17.21.310 General penalty.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, any person who violates any provisions or requirements of this chapter or rules adopted hereunder is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) A second or subsequent offense is a gross misdemeanor. Any offense committed more than five years after a previous conviction shall be considered a first offense. [2003 c 53 s 118; 1967 c 177 s 16; 1961 c 249 s 34.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**RCW 17.21.315 Civil penalty for failure to comply with chapter.**

Every person who fails to comply with this chapter or the rules adopted under it may be subjected to a civil penalty, as determined by the director, in an amount of not more than seven thousand five hundred dollars for every such violation. Each and every such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense. Every person who, through an act of commission or omission, procures, aids, or abets in the violation shall be considered to have violated this section and may be subject to the civil penalty herein provided. [1989 c 380 s 61; 1985 c 158 s 3.]

**RCW 17.21.320 Access to public or private premises—Search warrants—Prosecuting attorney's duties—Injunctions.** (1) For purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter the director may enter upon any public or private premises at reasonable times, in order:

(a) To have access for the purpose of inspecting any equipment subject to this chapter and such premises on which such equipment is kept or stored;

(b) To inspect lands actually or reported to be exposed to pesticides;

(c) To inspect storage or disposal areas;

(d) To inspect or investigate complaints of injury to humans or land; or

(e) To sample pesticides being applied or to be applied.

(2) Should the director be denied access to any land where such access was sought for the purposes set forth in this chapter, the director may apply to any court of competent jurisdiction for a search warrant authorizing access to such land for said purposes. The court may upon such application, issue the search warrant for the purposes requested.

(3) It shall be the duty of each prosecuting attorney to whom any violation of this chapter is reported, to cause appropriate proceedings to be instituted and prosecuted in a court of competent jurisdiction without delay.

(4) The director may bring an action to enjoin the violation or threatened violation of any provision of this chapter or any rule made pursuant to this chapter in the superior court of the county in which such violation occurs or is about to occur. [1989 c 380 s 62; 1971 ex.s. c 191 s 10.]

**RCW 17.21.340 Violation of chapter—Remedies.** (1) A person aggrieved by a violation of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter:

(a) May request an inspection of the area in which the violation is believed to have occurred. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation has occurred, the department shall conduct an inspection as soon as practicable. However, the director may refuse to act on a request for inspection concerning only property loss or damage if the person suffering property damage fails to file a timely report of loss under RCW 17.21.190. If an inspection is conducted, the person requesting the inspection shall:

(i) Be promptly notified in writing of the department's decision concerning the assessment of any penalty pursuant to the inspection; and

(ii) Be entitled, on request, to have his or her name protected from disclosure in any communication with persons outside the department and in any record published, released, or made available pursuant to this chapter: PROVIDED, That in any appeal proceeding the identity of the aggrieved person who requests the inspection shall be disclosed to the alleged violator of the act upon request of the alleged violator;

(b) Shall be notified promptly, on written application to the director, of any penalty or other action taken by the department pursuant to an investigation of the violation under this chapter; and

(c) May request, within ten days from the service of a final order fixing a penalty for the violation, that the director reconsider the entire matter if it is alleged that the penalty is inappropriate. If the person is aggrieved by a decision of the director on reconsideration, the person may request an adjudicative proceeding under chapter 34.05 RCW. However, the procedures for a brief adjudicative proceeding may not be used unless agreed to by the person requesting the adjudicative proceeding. During the adjudicative proceeding under (c) of this subsection, the presiding officer shall consider the interests of the person requesting the adjudicative proceeding.

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall preclude any person aggrieved by a violation of this chapter from bringing suit in a court of competent jurisdiction for damages arising from the violation. [1989 c 380 s 63.]

**RCW 17.21.350 Report to legislature.** By February 1st of each year the department shall report to the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate on the activities of the department under this chapter. The report shall include, at a minimum: (1) A review of the department's pesticide incident investigation and enforcement activities, with the number of cases investigated and the number and amount of civil penalties assessed; and (2) a summary of the pesticide residue food monitoring program with information on the food samples tested and results of the tests, a listing of the pesticides for which testing is done, and other pertinent information. [1997 c 242 s 19; 1989 c 380 s 64.]

**RCW 17.21.400 Landscape or right-of-way applications—Notice.**

(1) (a) A certified applicator making a landscape application shall display the name and telephone number of the applicator or the applicator's employer on any power application apparatus. The applicator shall also carry the material safety data sheet for each pesticide being applied.

(b) A certified applicator making a right-of-way application shall display the name and telephone number of the applicator or the applicator's employer and the words "VEGETATION MANAGEMENT APPLICATION" on any power application apparatus. The applicator shall also carry the material safety data sheet for each pesticide being applied.

(2) If a certified applicator receives a written request for information on a landscape or right-of-way spray application, the applicator shall provide the requestor with the name or names of each pesticide applied and (a) a copy of the material safety data sheet for each pesticide; or (b) a pesticide fact sheet for each pesticide as developed or approved by the department.

(3) The director shall adopt rules establishing the size and lettering requirements of the apparatus display signs required under this section. [1994 c 283 s 32; 1992 c 176 s 2.]

**RCW 17.21.410 Landscape applications—Marking of property, posting requirements.** (1) A certified applicator making a landscape application to:

(a) Residential property shall at the time of the application place a marker at the usual point of entry to the property. If the application is made to an isolated spot that is not a substantial portion of the property, the applicator shall only be required to place a marker at the application site. If the application is in a fenced or otherwise isolated backyard, no marker is required.

(b) Commercial properties such as apartments or shopping centers shall at the time of application place a marker in a conspicuous location at or near each site being treated.

(c) A golf course shall at the time of the application place a marker at the first tee and tenth tee or post the information in a conspicuous location such as on a central message board.

(d) A school, nursery school, or licensed day care shall at the time of the application place a marker at each primary point of entry to the school grounds. A school employee making an application to a school facility shall comply with the posting requirements in RCW 17.21.415.

(e) A park, cemetery, rest stop, or similar property as may be defined in rule shall at the time of the application place a marker at each primary point of entry.

(2) An individual making a landscape application to a school grounds, nursery school, or licensed day care, and not otherwise covered by subsection (1) of this section, shall at the time of the application place a marker at each primary point of entry to the school grounds.

(3) The marker shall be a minimum of four inches by five inches. It shall have the words: "THIS LANDSCAPE HAS BEEN TREATED BY" as the headline and "FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL" as the footer. Larger size requirements for markers may be established in rule for specific applications. The company name and service mark shall be included between the headline and the footer on a marker placed by a commercial applicator. The applicator's telephone number where information can be obtained about the application shall be included in the footer of the marker. Markers shall be printed in colors contrasting to the background.

(4) The property owner or tenant shall remove the marker according to the schedule established in rule. A certified applicator or individual who complies with this section is not liable for the removal of markers by unauthorized persons or removal outside the designated removal time.

(5) A certified applicator or individual who complies with this section cannot be held liable for personal property damage or bodily injury resulting from markers that are placed as required. [2001 c 333 s 2; 1994 c 283 s 33; 1992 c 176 s 5.]

**Effective date—2001 c 333:** See note following RCW 17.21.020.

**RCW 17.21.415 Schools—Policies and methods—Notification—Records—Liability.** (1) As used in this section, "school" means a licensed day care center or a public kindergarten or a public elementary or secondary school.

(2) A school shall provide written notification, upon request, to parents or guardians of students and employees describing the school's pest control policies and methods, including the posting and notification requirements of this section.

(3) A school shall establish a notification system that, as a minimum, notifies interested parents or guardians of students and employees at least forty-eight hours before a pesticide application to a school facility. The notification system shall include posting of the notification in a prominent place in the main office of the school.

(4) All notifications to parents, guardians, and employees shall include the heading "Notice: Pesticide Application" and, at a minimum, shall state:

- (a) The product name of the pesticide to be applied;
- (b) The intended date and time of application;
- (c) The location to which the pesticide is to be applied;
- (d) The pest to be controlled; and
- (e) The name and phone number of a contact person at the school.

(5) A school facility application must be made within forty-eight hours following the intended date and time stated in the notification or the notification process shall be repeated.

(6) A school shall, at the time of application, post notification signs for all pesticide applications made to school facilities unless the application is otherwise required to be posted by a certified applicator under the provisions of RCW 17.21.410(1)(d).

(a) Notification signs for applications made to school grounds by school employees shall be placed at the location of the application and at each primary point of entry to the school grounds. The signs shall be a minimum of four inches by five inches and shall include the words: "THIS LANDSCAPE HAS BEEN RECENTLY SPRAYED OR TREATED WITH PESTICIDES BY YOUR SCHOOL" as the headline and "FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL" as the footer. The footer shall provide the name and telephone number of a contact person at the school.

(b) Notification signs for applications made to school facilities other than school grounds shall be posted at the location of the application. The signs shall be a minimum of eight and one-half by eleven inches and shall include the heading "Notice: Pesticide Application" and, at a minimum, shall state:

(i) The product name of the pesticide applied;

(ii) The date and time of application;

(iii) The location to which the pesticide was applied;

(iv) The pest to be controlled; and

(v) The name and phone number of a contact person at the school.

(c) Notification signs shall be printed in colors contrasting to the background.

(d) Notification signs shall remain in place for at least twenty-four hours from the time the application is completed. In the event the pesticide label requires a restricted entry interval greater than twenty-four hours, the notification sign shall remain in place consistent with the restricted entry interval time as required by the label.

(7) A school facility application does not include the application of antimicrobial pesticides or the placement of insect or rodent baits that are not accessible to children.

(8) The prenotification requirements of this section do not apply if the school facility application is made when the school is not occupied by students for at least two consecutive days after the application.

(9) The prenotification requirements of this section do not apply to any emergency school facility application for control of any pest that poses an immediate human health or safety threat, such as an application to control stinging insects. When an emergency school facility application is made, notification consistent with the school's notification system shall occur as soon as possible after the application. The notification shall include information consistent with subsection (6)(b) of this section.

(10) A school shall make the records of all pesticide applications to school facilities required under this chapter, including an annual summary of the records, readily accessible to interested persons.

(11) A school is not liable for the removal of signs by unauthorized persons. A school that complies with this section may not be held liable for personal property damage or bodily injury resulting from signs that are placed as required. [2009 c 556 s 16; 2001 c 333 s 3.]

**Effective date—2001 c 333:** See note following RCW 17.21.020.

**RCW 17.21.420 Pesticide-sensitive individuals—List procedure.**

(1) The department shall develop a list of pesticide-sensitive individuals. The list shall include any person with a documented pesticide sensitivity who submits information to the department on an application form developed by the department indicating the person's pesticide sensitivity.

(2) An applicant for inclusion on the pesticide-sensitive list may apply to the department at any time and shall provide the department, on the department's form, the name, street address, and telephone number of the applicant and of each property owner with property abutting the applicant's principal place of residence. The pesticide sensitivity of an individual shall be certified by a physician who holds a valid license to practice medicine in this state. The lands listed on an application for inclusion on the pesticide-sensitive list shall constitute the pesticide notification area for that applicant. For highway or road rights-of-way, a property abutting shall mean that portion of the property within one-half mile of the principal place of residence.

(3) A person whose name has been included on the pesticide-sensitive list shall notify the department of a need to update the list as soon as possible after: (a) A change of address or telephone number; (b) a change in ownership of property abutting a pesticide-sensitive individual; (c) a change in the applicant's condition; or (d) the sensitivity is deemed to no longer exist.

(4) The pesticide-sensitive list shall expire on December 31 of each year. The department shall distribute application forms for the new list at a reasonable time prior to the expiration of the current list, including mailing an application form to each person on the current list at the address given by the person in his or her most recent application. Persons desiring to be placed on or remain on the list shall submit a new application each year.

(5) The department shall distribute the list by January 1 and June 15 of each year to all certified applicators likely to make landscape applications. The list shall provide multiple methods of accessing the information so that certified applicators making landscape applications or right-of-way applications are able to easily determine what properties and individuals require notification for a specific application. An updated list shall be distributed whenever deemed necessary by the department. Certified applicators may request a list of newly registered individuals that have been added to the list since the last distribution. Registered individuals shall receive verification that their name has been placed on the list. [1994 c 283 s 34; 1992 c 176 s 3.]

**RCW 17.21.430 Pesticide-sensitive individuals—Notification.**

(1) A certified applicator making a landscape application or a right-of-way application to the pesticide notification area, as defined in RCW 17.21.420(2), of a person on the pesticide-sensitive list shall notify the listed pesticide-sensitive individual of the application. Notification shall be made at least two hours prior to the scheduled application, or in the case of an immediate service call, the applicator shall provide notification at the time of the application.

(2) Notification under this section shall be made in writing, in person, or by telephone, and shall disclose the date and approximate time of the application. In the event a certified applicator is unable

to provide prior notification because of the absence or inaccessibility of the individual, the applicator shall leave a written notice at the residence of the individual listed on the pesticide-sensitive list at the time of the application. If a person on the pesticide-sensitive list lives in a multifamily dwelling such as an apartment or condominium, the applicator shall notify the person on the list or shall advise the manager or other property owner's representative to notify the person on the list of the application. [1992 c 176 s 4.]

**RCW 17.21.440 Agricultural workers and handlers of agricultural pesticides—Coordination of regulation and enforcement with department of labor and industries.** (1) As used in this section, "federal worker protection standard" or "federal standard" means the worker protection standard for agricultural workers and handlers of agricultural pesticides adopted by the United States environmental protection agency in 40 C.F.R., part 170 as it exists on June 6, 1996.

(2) (a) No rule adopted under this chapter may impose requirements that make compliance with the federal worker protection standard impossible.

(b) The department shall adopt by rule safety and health standards that are at least as effective as the federal standard. Standards adopted by the department under this section shall be adopted in coordination with the department of labor and industries.

(3) If a violation of the federal worker protection standard, or of state rules regulating activities governed by the federal standard, is investigated by the department and by the department of labor and industries, the agencies shall conduct a joint investigation if feasible, and shall share relevant information. However, an investigation conducted by the department of labor and industries under Title 51 RCW solely with regard to industrial insurance shall not be considered to be an investigation by the department of labor and industries for this purpose. The agencies shall not issue duplicate citations to an individual or business for the same violation of the federal standard or state rules regulating activities governed by the federal standard. By December 1, 1996, the department and the department of labor and industries shall jointly establish a formal agreement that: Identifies the roles of each of the two agencies in conducting investigations of activities governed by the federal standard; and provides for protection of workers and enforcement of standards that is at least [as] effective as provided for other enforcement under this chapter. [1996 c 260 s 3.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1996 c 260:** See notes following RCW 49.17.280.

*Department of labor and industries authority: RCW 49.17.280.*

**RCW 17.21.445 Protection of pollinator health—Report to the legislature.** (1) The department shall continue to evaluate and update, as necessary, pesticide regulatory and education programs focused on measures to protect pollinator health. This work by the department, when appropriate, must be coordinated with Washington

State University pesticide education programs to limit duplication and ensure consistent information sharing.

(2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, and in consultation with the department of fish and wildlife with regard to considerations for native pollinator species, the department must:

(a) Evaluate and adapt pesticide training and drift reduction technical assistance programs to include up-to-date protection measures for pollinators;

(b) Support Washington State University's pesticide education programs continued incorporation of pollinator protection measures during their training and certification classes, and coordinate on presented research, new protection measures, technological advancements, and any other significant science-based information;

(c) Coordinate with pollinator health staff in the department and at Washington State University to conduct investigations and share annual findings from pesticide-related investigations with the pollinator health task force;

(d) Evaluate and, if necessary, update the pesticide civil penalty matrix related to pollinator death or damage due to the misuse of pesticides and ensure pollinator health protections are included;

(e) When possible, the department must provide credits for pesticide courses focused on pollinator protection measures.

(3) By December 31, 2021, the department shall provide a report to the appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, that includes recommendations for measures to mitigate the risks of harm to bees and other pollinators from the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and treated seeds. The department shall evaluate and incorporate the reviews scheduled for completion by the United States environmental protection agency during 2021, including recommended mitigation measures from that agency. The department shall also review neonicotinoid pesticide use restrictions and labeling requirements adopted in other states and include in the report any recommendations for adoption of similar requirements in this state. [2021 c 278 s 4.]

**Purpose—Intent—2021 c 278:** See note following RCW 43.23.300.

**RCW 17.21.450 Application of certain pesticides by noncertified applicators—Standards adopted by rule.** The department shall adopt by rule standards for pesticide applications made by noncertified applicators of restricted use pesticides under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. Standards must be at least as effective as the federal certification and training standards for pesticide applicators and must include requirements for both the noncertified applicator and the certified applicator directly supervising the noncertified applicator. [2023 c 186 s 4.]

**RCW 17.21.455 Pesticide advisory board—Established—Membership.**

(1) The pesticide advisory board is established to advise the director on any or all problems relating to the use and application of pesticides in the state except for matters covered by the pesticide application safety committee created in RCW 70.104.110, with members as provided in this subsection.



(a) Voting members:

- (i) One pesticide applicator licensed to operate agricultural aerial apparatus;
- (ii) One licensed pest control consultant, or one licensed pesticide dealer or pesticide dealer manager;
- (iii) One member representing the agricultural chemical industry;
- (iv) One agricultural producer;
- (v) The department's pesticide management division assistant director or the assistant director's designee;
- (vi) One toxicologist or pesticide investigations manager from the department of health;
- (vii) The department of labor and industries' division of occupational safety and health assistant director or the assistant director's designee;
- (viii) One member representing the environmental community;
- (ix) One representative from a federally recognized Indian tribe or an interested tribe that does not regulate pesticides;
- (x) One farmworker advocate;
- (xi) One migrant farmworker;
- (xii) One at-large member as determined by the director; and
- (xiii) One member representing the household and commercial products association.

(b) Nonvoting members:

(i) The director of the following agencies or the director's designees:

- (A) The department of labor and industries;
- (B) The department of fish and wildlife;
- (C) The department of ecology; and
- (D) The liquor and cannabis board;

(ii) The commissioner of public lands or the commissioner's designee;

(iii) The commissioner of the employment security department or the commissioner's designee;

(iv) The environmental health specialist from the department of health;

(v) One entomologist in public service;

(vi) One toxicologist in public service;

(vii) One member from the national pesticide information center;

(viii) One pesticide coordinator from Washington State

University;

(ix) One agricultural health network advisor from the Pacific Northwest agricultural safety and health center;

(x) The department's pollinator health coordinator, apiarist, or both;

(xi) One commercial beekeeper;

(xii) One member representing the United States environmental protection agency region 10;

(xiii) One member representing the department of transportation with expertise in vegetation management;

(xiv) One member representing the noxious weed control board; and

(xv) One member representing an organization made up of agricultural producers, timber producers, wood preservers, and others whose mission includes supporting the science behind the responsible use of pesticides in both agriculture and forestry.

(2) The director shall appoint each member of the pesticide advisory board for terms of four years. Members may be appointed for successive four-year terms at the discretion of the director. The

terms must be staggered so that approximately one-fourth of the terms expire on June 30th of each calendar year. In making appointments, the director shall seek nominations from affected agricultural and environmental groups. The director may remove any member of the pesticide advisory board prior to the expiration of his or her term of appointment for cause.

(3) The director shall attempt to fill any vacancy on the pesticide advisory board within 30 days for the remainder of its term.

(4) The director, in consultation with the pesticide advisory board, shall form work groups that include individuals with the appropriate expertise to inform the board on issues relating to specific pesticides or uses. Work groups created under this subsection may include individuals who are not members of the pesticide advisory board. [2023 c 378 s 2.]

**Finding—Intent—2023 c 378:** "The legislature finds that agency decisions related to the regulation of pesticides benefit from robust community and stakeholder engagement. The legislature intends to create a formal and permanent advisory board to advise the department of agriculture on any or all problems relating to the use and application of pesticides in the state, with the exception of matters covered by the pesticide application safety committee." [2023 c 378 s 1.]

**RCW 17.21.460 Pesticide advisory board—Election of chair—**  
**Authority to call a meeting.** The pesticide advisory board established in RCW 17.21.455 shall elect a chair from among its membership. The pesticide advisory board shall meet from time to time at the call of the director, chair of the board, or a majority of the board. [2023 c 378 s 3.]

**Finding—Intent—2023 c 378:** See note following RCW 17.21.455.

**RCW 17.21.900 Preexisting liabilities not affected.** The enactment of this act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this act becomes effective. [1961 c 249 s 31.]

**RCW 17.21.920 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the Washington pesticide application act. [1961 c 249 s 33.]

**Chapter 17.24 RCW**  
**INSECT PESTS AND PLANT DISEASES**

**Sections**

- 17.24.003 Purpose.
- 17.24.007 Definitions.
- 17.24.011 Regulation of plant, plant product, bee movement, and genetically engineered organisms.
- 17.24.021 Inspection and investigation.
- 17.24.031 Determination of origin.
- 17.24.041 Power to adopt quarantine measures—Rules.
- 17.24.051 Introduction of plant pests, noxious weeds, or organisms affecting plant life—Special transit permit for brush, yard waste, or debris generated inside a quarantine area for apple maggot.
- 17.24.061 Protection of privileged or confidential information—Procedure—Notice—Declaratory judgment.
- 17.24.071 Compliance agreements.
- 17.24.081 Prohibited acts.
- 17.24.091 Impound and disposition.
- 17.24.100 Penalties—Second and subsequent offenses.
- 17.24.101 Statewide survey and control activity.
- 17.24.111 Director's cooperation with other agencies.
- 17.24.121 Acquisition of lands, water supply, or other properties for quarantine locations.
- 17.24.131 Requested inspections—Fee for service—Disbursements in lieu of fee.
- 17.24.141 Penalties—Criminal and civil penalty.
- 17.24.151 Violations—Costs of control.
- 17.24.161 Funds for technical and scientific services.
- 17.24.171 Determination of imminent danger of infestation of plant pests or plant diseases—Emergency measures—Conditions—Procedures.
- 17.24.210 Indemnity contracts for damages resulting from prevention, control, or eradication measures—Authorized—Conditions.
- 17.24.220 Sudden oak death syndrome—Coordinated response effort.

*Horticultural pests and diseases: Chapter 15.08 RCW.*

**RCW 17.24.003 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to provide a strong system for the exclusion of plant and bee pests and diseases through regulation of movement and quarantines of infested areas to protect the forest, agricultural, horticultural, floricultural, and apiary industries of the state; plants and shrubs within the state; and the environment of the state from the impact of insect pests, plant pathogens, noxious weeds, and bee pests and the public and private costs that result when these infestations become established. [1991 c 257 s 3.]

**RCW 17.24.007 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

- (1) "Department" means the state department of agriculture.
- (2) "Director" means the director of the state department of agriculture or the director's designee.
- (3) "Quarantine" means a rule issued by the department that prohibits or regulates the movement of articles, bees, plants, or plant products from designated quarantine areas within or outside the state to prevent the spread of disease, plant pathogens, or pests to nonquarantine areas.
- (4) "Plant pest" means a living stage of an insect, mite, nematode, slug, snail, or protozoa, or other invertebrate animal, bacteria, fungus, or parasitic plant, or their reproductive parts, or viruses, or an organism similar to or allied with any of the foregoing plant pests, including a genetically engineered organism, or an infectious substance that can directly or indirectly injure or cause disease or damage in plants or parts of plants or in processed, manufactured, or other products of plants.
- (5) "Plants and plant products" means trees, shrubs, vines, forage, and cereal plants, and all other plants and plant parts, including cuttings, grafts, scions, buds, fruit, vegetables, roots, bulbs, seeds, wood, lumber, and all products made from the plants and plant products.
- (6) "Certificate" or "certificate of inspection" means an official document certifying compliance with the requirements of this chapter. The term "certificate" includes labels, rubber stamp imprints, tags, permits, written statements, or a form of inspection and certification document that accompanies the movement of inspected and certified plant material and plant products, or bees, bee hives, or beekeeping equipment.
- (7) "Compliance agreement" means a written agreement between the department and a person engaged in growing, handling, or moving articles, plants, plant products, or bees, bee hives, or beekeeping equipment regulated under this chapter, in which the person agrees to comply with stipulated requirements.
- (8) "Distribution" means the movement of a regulated article from the property where it is grown or kept, to property that is not contiguous to the property, regardless of the ownership of the properties.
- (9) "Genetically engineered organism" means an organism altered or produced through genetic modification from a donor, vector, or recipient organism using recombinant DNA techniques, excluding those organisms covered by the food, drug and cosmetic act (21 U.S.C. Secs. 301-392).
- (10) "Person" means a natural person, individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, society, or association, and every officer, agent, or employee of any of these entities.
- (11) "Sell" means to sell, to hold for sale, offer for sale, handle, or to use as inducement for the sale of another article or product.
- (12) "Noxious weed" means a living stage, including, but not limited to, seeds and reproductive parts, of a parasitic or other plant of a kind that presents a threat to Washington agriculture or environment.
- (13) "Regulated article" means a plant or plant product, bees or beekeeping equipment, noxious weed or other articles or equipment capable of harboring or transporting plant or bee pests or noxious weeds that is specifically addressed in rules or quarantines adopted under this chapter.

(14) "Owner" means the person having legal ownership, possession, or control over a regulated article covered by this chapter including, but not limited to, the owner, shipper, consignee, or their agent.

(15) "Nuisance" means a plant, or plant part, apiary, or property found in a commercial area on which is found a pest, pathogen, or disease that is a source of infestation to other properties.

(16) "Bees" means adult insects, eggs, larvae, pupae, or other immature stages of the species *Apis mellifera*.

(17) "Bee pests" means a mite, other parasite, or disease that causes injury to bees and those honey bees generally recognized to have undesirable behavioral characteristics such as or as found in Africanized honey bees.

(18) "Biological control" means the use by humans of living organisms to control or suppress undesirable animals and plants; the action of parasites, predators, or pathogens on a host or prey population to produce a lower general equilibrium than would prevail in the absence of these agents.

(19) "Biological control agent" means a parasite, predator, or pathogen intentionally released, by humans, into a target host or prey population with the intent of causing population reduction of that host or prey.

(20) "Emergency" means a situation where there is an imminent danger of an infestation of plant pests or disease that seriously threatens the state's agricultural or horticultural industries or environment and that cannot be adequately addressed with normal procedures or existing resources. [2000 c 100 s 6; 1991 c 257 s 4.]

**Effective date—2000 c 100:** See RCW 15.60.901.

**RCW 17.24.011 Regulation of plant, plant product, bee movement, and genetically engineered organisms.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 17.24.041, the director may:

(1) Make rules under which plants, plant products, bees, hives and beekeeping equipment, and noxious weeds may be brought into this state from other states, territories, or foreign countries; and

(2) Make rules with reference to plants, plant products, bees, bee hives and equipment, and genetically engineered organisms while in transit through this state as may be deemed necessary to prevent the introduction into and dissemination within this state of plant and bee pests and noxious weeds. [1991 c 257 s 5.]

**RCW 17.24.021 Inspection and investigation.** (1) The director may intercept and hold or order held for inspection, or cause to be inspected while in transit or after arrival at their destination, all plants, plant products, bees, or other articles likely to carry plant pests, bee pests, or noxious weeds being moved into this state from another state, territory, or a foreign country or within or through this state for plant and bee pests and disease.

(2) The director may enter upon public and private premises at reasonable times for the purpose of carrying out this chapter. If the director be denied access, the director may apply to any court of competent jurisdiction for a search warrant authorizing access to such premises. The court may upon such application issue the search warrant for the purposes requested.

(3) The director may adopt rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and provisions of this chapter. [1991 c 257 s 6.]

**RCW 17.24.031 Determination of origin.** The director may demand of a person who has in his or her possession or under his or her control, plants, bees, plant products, or other articles that may carry plant pests, bee pests, or noxious weeds, full information as to the origin and source of these items. Failure to provide that information, if known, may subject the person to a civil penalty. [1991 c 257 s 7.]

**RCW 17.24.041 Power to adopt quarantine measures—Rules.** If determined to be necessary to protect the forest, agricultural, horticultural, floricultural, beekeeping, or environmental interests of this state, the director may declare a quarantine against an area, place, nursery, orchard, vineyard, apiary, or other agricultural establishment, county or counties within the state, or against other states, territories, or foreign countries, or a portion of these areas, in reference to plant pests, or bee pests, or noxious weeds, or genetically engineered plant or plant pest organisms. The director may prohibit the movement of all regulated articles from such quarantined places or areas that are likely to contain such plant pests or noxious weeds or genetically engineered plant, plant pest, or bee pest organisms. The quarantine may be made absolute or rules may be adopted prescribing the conditions under which the regulated articles may be moved into, or sold, or otherwise disposed of in the state. [1991 c 257 s 8.]

**RCW 17.24.051 Introduction of plant pests, noxious weeds, or organisms affecting plant life—Special transit permit for brush, yard waste, or debris generated inside a quarantine area for apple maggot.** (1) The introduction into or release within the state of a plant pest, noxious weeds, bee pest, or any other organism that may directly or indirectly affect the plant life of the state as an injurious pest, parasite, predator, or other organism is prohibited, except under special permit issued by the department under rules adopted by the director. A special permit is not required for the introduction or release within the state of a genetically engineered plant or plant pest organism if the introduction or release has been approved under provisions of federal law and the department has been notified of the planned introduction or release. The department shall be the sole issuing agency for the permits. Except for research projects approved by the department, no permit for a biological control agent shall be issued unless the department has determined that the parasite, predator, or plant pathogen is target organism or plant specific and not likely to become a pest of nontarget plants or other beneficial organisms. The director may also exclude biological control agents that are infested with parasites determined to be detrimental to the biological control efforts of the state. The department may rely upon findings of the United States department of agriculture or any experts that the director may deem appropriate in making a determination about the threat posed by such organisms. In addition, the director may

request confidential business information subject to the conditions in RCW 17.24.061.

(2) Plant pests, noxious weeds, or other organisms introduced into or released within this state in violation of this section shall be subject to detention and disposition as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(3) Upon the request of a city or town that is located partially inside a quarantine area for apple maggot established by the department, the department may issue a special transit permit for the limited purpose of transporting brush and yard waste or debris generated within the city or town through a pest free area to a destination located inside a quarantine area for apple maggot established by the department, subject to conditions and provisions which the director may prescribe to prevent introduction, escape, or spread of the quarantined pests. [2018 c 147 s 2; 1991 c 257 s 9.]

**RCW 17.24.061 Protection of privileged or confidential information—Procedure—Notice—Declaratory judgment.** (1) In submitting data required by this chapter, the applicant may: (a) Mark clearly portions of data which in his or her opinion are trade secrets or commercial or financial information; and (b) submit the marked material separately from other material required to be submitted under this chapter.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or other law, the director shall not make information submitted by an applicant or registrant under this chapter available to the public if, in the judgment of the director, the information is privileged or confidential because it contains or relates to trade secrets or commercial or financial information. Where necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, information relating to unpublished formulas of products acquired by authorization of this chapter may be revealed to any state or federal agency consulted and may be revealed at a public hearing or in findings of fact issued by the director.

(3) If the director proposes to release for inspection or to reveal at a public hearing or in findings of fact issued by the director, information that the applicant or registrant believes to be protected from disclosure under subsection (2) of this section, he or she shall notify the applicant or registrant in writing, by certified mail. The director may not make this data available for inspection nor reveal the information at a public hearing or in findings of fact issued by the director until thirty days after receipt of the notice by the applicant or registrant. During this period, the applicant or registrant may withdraw the application or may institute an action in the superior court of Thurston county for a declaratory judgment as to whether the information is subject to protection under subsection (2) of this section. [1991 c 257 s 10.]

**RCW 17.24.071 Compliance agreements.** The director may enter into compliance agreements with a person engaged in growing, handling, or moving articles, bees, plants, or plant products regulated under this chapter. [1991 c 257 s 11.]

**RCW 17.24.081 Prohibited acts.** It shall be unlawful for a person to:

(1) Sell, offer for sale, or distribute a noxious weed or a plant or plant product or regulated article infested or infected with a plant pest declared by rule to be a threat to the state's forest, agricultural, horticultural, floricultural, or beekeeping industries or environment;

(2) Knowingly receive a noxious weed, or a plant, plant product, bees, bee hive or appliances, or regulated article sold, given away, carried, shipped, or delivered for carriage or shipment within this state, in violation of the provisions of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter;

(3) Fail to immediately notify the department and isolate and hold the noxious weed, bees, bee hives or appliances, plants or plant products, or other thing unopened or unused subject to inspection or other disposition as may be provided by the department, where the item has been received without knowledge of the violation and the receiver has become subsequently aware of the potential problem;

(4) Knowingly conceal or willfully withhold available information regarding an infected or infested plant, plant product, regulated article, or noxious weed;

(5) Introduce or move into this state, or to move or dispose of in this state, a plant, plant product, or other item included in a quarantine, except under rules as may be prescribed by the department, after a quarantine order has been adopted under this chapter against a place, nursery, orchard, vineyard, apiary, other agricultural establishment, county of this state, another state, territory, or a foreign country as to a plant pest, bee pest, or noxious weed or genetically engineered plant or plant pest organism, until such quarantine is removed;

(6) Introduce or move nonnative managed bumble bees into this state to be used in open-field agricultural use. [2021 c 278 s 5; 1991 c 257 s 12.]

**Purpose—Intent—2021 c 278:** See note following RCW 43.23.300.

**RCW 17.24.091 Impound and disposition.** (1) If upon inspection, the director finds that an inspected plant or plant product or bees are infected or infested or that a regulated article is being held or transported in violation of a rule or quarantine of the department, the director shall notify the owner that a violation of this chapter exists. The director may impound or order the impounding of the infected or infested or regulated article in such a manner as may be necessary to prevent the threat of infestation. The notice shall be in writing and sent by certified mail or personal service identifying the impounded article and giving notice that the articles will be treated, returned to the shipper or to a quarantined area, or destroyed in a manner as to prevent infestation. The impounded article shall not be destroyed unless the director determines that (a) no effective treatment can be carried out; and (b) the impounded article cannot be returned to the shipper or shipped back to a quarantine area without threat of infestation to this state; and (c) mere possession by the owner constitutes an emergency.

(2) Before taking action to treat, return, or destroy the impounded article, the director shall notify the owner of the owner's



right to a hearing before the director under chapter 34.05 RCW. Within ten days after the notice has been given the owner may request a hearing. The request must be in writing.

(3) The cost to impound articles along with the cost, if any, to treat, return, or destroy the articles shall be at the owner's expense. The owner is not entitled to compensation for infested or infested articles destroyed by the department under this section. [1991 c 257 s 13.]

**RCW 17.24.100 Penalties—Second and subsequent offenses.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, every person who violates or fails to comply with any rule or regulation adopted and promulgated by the director of agriculture in accordance with and under the provision of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) A second and each subsequent violation or failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter or rule or regulation adopted hereunder is a gross misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 s 119; 1981 c 296 s 26; 1927 c 292 s 7; RRS s 2786. Prior: 1921 c 105 s 7.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**Severability—1981 c 296:** See note following RCW 15.08.010.

**RCW 17.24.101 Statewide survey and control activity.** If there is reason to believe that a plant or bee pest may adversely impact the forestry, agricultural, horticultural, floricultural, or related industries of the state; or may cause harm to the environment of the state; or such information is needed to facilitate or allow the movement of forestry, agricultural, horticultural, or related products to out-of-state, foreign and domestic markets, the director may conduct, or cause to be conducted, surveys to determine the presence, absence, or distribution of a pest.

The director may take such measures as may be required to control or eradicate such pests where such measures are determined to be in the public interest, are technically feasible, and for which funds are appropriated or provided through cooperative agreements. [1991 c 257 s 14.]

**RCW 17.24.111 Director's cooperation with other agencies.** The director may enter into cooperative arrangements with a person, municipality, county, Washington State University or any of its experiment stations, or other agencies of this state, and with boards, officers, and authorities of other states and the United States, including the United States department of agriculture, for the inspection of bees, plants and plant parts and products and the control or eradication of plant pests, bee pests, or noxious weeds and to carry out other provisions of this chapter. [1991 c 257 s 15.]

**RCW 17.24.121 Acquisition of lands, water supply, or other properties for quarantine locations.** The director may acquire, in fee or in trust, by gift, or whenever funds are appropriated for such

purposes, by purchase, easement, lease, or condemnation, lands or other property, water supplies, as may be deemed necessary for use by the department for establishing quarantine stations for the purpose of the isolation, prevention, eradication, elimination, and control of insect pests or plant pathogens that affect the agricultural or horticultural products of the state; for the propagation of biological control agents; or the isolation of genetically engineered plants or plant pests; or the isolation of bee pests. [1991 c 257 s 16.]

**RCW 17.24.131 Requested inspections—Fee for service—**

**Disbursements in lieu of fee.** To facilitate the movement or sale of forest, agricultural, floricultural, horticultural and related products, or bees and related products, the director may provide, if requested by farmers, growers, or other interested persons, special inspections, pest identifications, plant identifications, plant diagnostic services, pest control activities, other special certifications and activities not otherwise authorized by statute and prescribe a fee for that service. The fee shall, as closely as practical, cover the cost of the service rendered, including the salaries and expenses of the personnel involved. Moneys collected shall be deposited in the plant pest account, which is hereby created within the agricultural local fund. No appropriation is required for disbursement from the plant pest account to provide the services authorized by this section. In lieu of a fee, assessments and other funds deposited in the plant pest account may be disbursed to provide the services authorized by this section. [1997 c 227 s 2; 1991 c 257 s 17.]

**Effective date—1997 c 227:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 26, 1997]." [1997 c 227 s 3.]

**RCW 17.24.141 Penalties—Criminal and civil penalty.** Whenever the director finds that a person has committed a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, and that violation has not been punished pursuant to RCW 17.24.100, the director may impose upon and collect from the violator a civil penalty not exceeding five thousand dollars per violation. Each violation shall be a separate and distinct offense. A person who knowingly, through an act of commission or omission, procures or aids or abets in the violation shall be considered to have violated this section and may be subject to the civil penalty. [1991 c 257 s 18.]

**RCW 17.24.151 Violations—Costs of control.** A person who, through a knowing and willful violation of a quarantine established under this chapter, causes an infestation to become established, may be required to pay the costs of public control or eradication measures caused as a result of that violation. [1991 c 257 s 19.]

**RCW 17.24.161 Funds for technical and scientific services.** The director may, at the director's discretion, provide funds for

technical or scientific services, labor, materials and supplies, and biological control agents for the control of plant pests, bee pests, and noxious weeds. [1991 c 257 s 20.]

**RCW 17.24.171 Determination of imminent danger of infestation of plant pests or plant diseases—Emergency measures—Conditions—Procedures.**

(1) If the director determines that there exists an imminent danger of an infestation of plant pests or plant diseases that seriously endangers the agricultural or horticultural industries of the state, or that seriously threatens life, health, economic well-being, or the environment, the director shall request the governor to order emergency measures to control the pests or plant diseases under RCW 43.06.010(13). The director's findings shall contain an evaluation of the affect of the emergency measures on public health.

(2) If an emergency is declared pursuant to RCW 43.06.010(13), the director may appoint a committee to advise the governor through the director and to review emergency measures necessary under the authority of RCW 43.06.010(13) and this section and make subsequent recommendations to the governor. Invitations to participate on the committee must include representatives of the affected agricultural industries, state and local government, federally recognized tribes, public health interests, technical service providers, and environmental organizations.

(3) Upon the order of the governor of the use of emergency measures, the director is authorized to implement the emergency measures to prevent, control, or eradicate plant pests or plant diseases that are the subject of the emergency order. Such measures, after thorough evaluation of all other alternatives, may include the aerial application of pesticides.

(4) Upon the order of the governor of the use of emergency measures, the director is authorized to enter into agreements with individuals, companies, or agencies, to accomplish the prevention, control, or eradication of plant pests or plant diseases, notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 15.58 or 17.21 RCW, or any other statute.

(5) The director shall continually evaluate the emergency measures taken and report to the governor at intervals of not less than 60 days. The director shall immediately advise the governor if he or she finds that the emergency no longer exists or if certain emergency measures should be discontinued. [2024 c 228 s 3; 2003 c 314 s 6; 1991 c 257 s 21.]

**Findings—Intent—2024 c 228:** See note following RCW 43.23.340.

**Findings—2003 c 314:** See note following RCW 17.24.220.

**RCW 17.24.210 Indemnity contracts for damages resulting from prevention, control, or eradication measures—Authorized—Conditions.**

The director of agriculture may, on the behalf of the state of Washington, enter into indemnity contracts wherein the state of Washington agrees to repay any person, firm, corporation, or other entity acting under the direction or control of the proper authority to provide plant pest or plant disease prevention, control, or eradication measures as provided in this chapter or any rule adopted

pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, for losses and damages incurred as a result of such prevention, control, or eradication measures if all of the following conditions occur:

(1) At the time of the incident the worker is performing services as an emergency measures worker and is acting within the course of his or her duties as an emergency measures worker;

(2) At the time of the injury, loss, or damage, the organization providing emergency measures by which the worker is employed is an approved organization for providing emergency measures;

(3) The injury, loss, or damage is proximately caused by his or her service either with or without negligence as an emergency measures worker;

(4) The injury, loss, or damage is not caused by the intoxication of the worker; and

(5) The injury, loss, or damage is not due to willful misconduct or gross negligence on the part of a worker.

Where an act or omission by an emergency services provider in the course of providing emergency services injures a person or property, the provider and the state may be jointly and severally liable for the injury, if state liability is proved under existing or hereafter enacted law. [2011 c 336 s 461; 2011 c 103 s 43; 1982 c 153 s 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2011 c 103 s 43 and by 2011 c 336 s 461, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Purpose—2011 c 103:** See note following RCW 15.26.120.

**Severability—1982 c 153:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1982 c 153 s 5.]

**Effective date—1982 c 153:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect April 1, 1982." [1982 c 153 s 7.]

**RCW 17.24.220 Sudden oak death syndrome—Coordinated response effort.** The department and the department of natural resources shall coordinate their sudden oak death syndrome response efforts with other plant pest agencies and private organizations to exchange information, monitor the confirmed incidences of the disease, and take action as appropriate under existing plant pest control authorities to prevent the introduction of the disease into Washington and to control or eradicate the disease if it is determined to be present in the state. [2003 c 314 s 8.]

**Findings—2003 c 314:** "The legislature finds that since 1995 large numbers of oak and tanoak trees have been dying in the coastal counties of California. The legislature also finds that the disease causing the tree loss, which is commonly referred to as sudden oak death syndrome, has, as of July 27, 2003, been confirmed in twelve California counties, and one Oregon county. The legislature also finds that in addition to affecting several species of oak, this disease has

been confirmed to affect several plant species common in Washington's forests, including Douglas Fir, big leaf maple, huckleberry, rhododendron, madrone, and manzanita. The legislature recognizes that the state of California and the United States department of agriculture have adopted restrictions on the movement of articles that may host the disease, and the state of Oregon and the Canadian government have adopted restrictions on the importation of potential host articles. The legislature finds that an introduction of sudden oak death syndrome into Washington could cause potential damage to the state's forest health, leading to both economic and ecological losses." [2003 c 314 s 7.]

**Chapter 17.26 RCW**  
**CONTROL OF SPARTINA AND PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE**

**Sections**

17.26.005	Findings.
17.26.006	Findings—Purpose.
17.26.007	Findings—Application to appropriations.
17.26.010	Restriction on state agencies and local governments.
17.26.011	Spartina removal includes restoration—Study.
17.26.015	Lead agency—Responsibilities.
17.26.020	High priority for all state agencies—Definitions.
17.26.901	Effective date—1995 c 255.

**RCW 17.26.005 Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) *Spartina alterniflora*, *Spartina anglica*, *Spartina x townsendii*, and *Spartina patens* which are collectively called spartina are not native to the state of Washington nor to the west coast of North America. This noxious weed was inadvertently introduced into the wetlands of the state and is now aggressively invading new areas to the detriment of native ecosystems and aquatic habitat. The spread of spartina threatens to permanently convert and displace native freshwater and saltwater wetlands and intertidal zones, including critical habitat for migratory birds, many fish species, bivalves, invertebrates, marine mammals, and other animals. The continued spread of spartina will permanently reduce the diversity and the quantity of these species and will have a significant negative environmental impact.

Spartina poses a significant hydrological threat. Clumps and meadows of spartina are dense environments that bind sediments and lift the intertidal gradient up out of the intertidal zone through time. This process reduces flows during flood conditions, raises flood levels, and significantly alters the hydrological regime of estuarine areas.

Spartina spreads by rhizomes and seed production. Through lateral growth by rhizomes, spartina establishes a dense monotypic meadow. Through seed production and the spread of seed through the air and by water, spartina is currently being spread to other states and to Canadian provinces.

(2) Purple loosestrife was first documented in the state in 1929 along freshwater shorelands. It is now present throughout the state and is particularly abundant in Grant county and its neighboring counties. The plant appears to be colonizing more rapidly on the eastern side of the state than on the western side. It was first introduced to the Winchester wasteway area in the 1960's and has invaded the area rapidly. Purple loosestrife is displacing native plants and as a result is threatening an extremely important part of this state's wildlife habitat. *Lythrum salicaria* and *L. virgatum* are closely related loosestrife species that are morphologically similar and not easily distinguished from each other in the field. Both species have been referred to as purple loosestrife.

(3) Current laws and rules designed to protect the environment and preserve the wetland habitats, fish, and wildlife of the state are not designed to respond to an ecosystem-wide threat of this kind. State and federal agencies, local governments, weed boards, concerned individuals, and property owners attempting to deal with the

ecological emergency posed by spartina and purple loosestrife infestations have been frustrated by interagency disagreements, demands for an undue amount of procedural and scientific process and information, dilatory appeals, and the improper application of laws and regulations by agencies that have in fact undermined the legislative purposes of those same laws while ignoring the long-term implications of delay and inaction. There is a compelling need for strong leadership, coordination, and reporting by a single state agency to respond appropriately to this urgent environmental challenge.

Any further delay of control efforts will significantly increase the cost of spartina and purple loosestrife control and reduce the likelihood of long-term success. Control efforts must be coordinated across political and ownership boundaries in order to be effective.

(4) The presence of noxious weeds on public lands constitutes a public nuisance and negatively impacts public and private lands. The legislature finds that control and eradication of noxious weeds on private lands is in the public interest. [1995 c 255 s 1.]

**RCW 17.26.006 Findings—Purpose.** This state is facing an environmental disaster that will affect other states as well as other nations. The legislature finds that six years is sufficient time for state agencies to debate solutions to the spartina and purple loosestrife problems that are occurring in state waters. One of the purposes of chapter 255, Laws of 1995 is to focus agency action on control and future eradication of spartina and purple loosestrife. It is the mandate of the legislature that one state agency, the department of agriculture, be responsible for a unified effort to eliminate spartina and control purple loosestrife, with the advice of the state noxious weed control board, and that state agency shall be directly accountable to the legislature on the progress of the spartina eradication and purple loosestrife control program. [1995 c 255 s 2.]

**RCW 17.26.007 Findings—Application to appropriations.** This section applies to appropriations made to the department of agriculture specifically for the removal or control of spartina or purple loosestrife or both plants. The legislature finds that: The presence of spartina or purple loosestrife on private lands threatens wildlife habitat and provides a source of renewed infestation for public lands; and effective eradication or control of spartina or purple loosestrife requires concerted efforts on both public and private lands to protect public resources. The department of agriculture may grant funds to other state agencies, local governments, and nonprofit corporations for eradication or control purposes and may use those moneys itself. The department of agriculture may match private funds for eradication or control programs on private property on a fifty-fifty matching basis. The accounting and supervision of the funds at the local level shall be conducted by the department of agriculture. [1995 c 255 s 11.]

**RCW 17.26.010 Restriction on state agencies and local governments.** State agencies and local governments may not use any

other local, state, or federal permitting requirement, regulatory authority, or legal mechanism to override the legislative intent and statutory mandates of chapter 255, Laws of 1995. [1995 c 255 s 8.]

**RCW 17.26.011 Spartina removal includes restoration—Study.**

Spartina removal shall include restoration to return intertidal land and other infested lands to the condition found on adjacent unaffected lands in the same tidal elevation. The department of fish and wildlife, the department of ecology, the department of agriculture, and the department of natural resources shall develop a restoration plan in cooperation with owners of spartina infested lands and shall submit the plan to the appropriate standing committees of the house of representatives and the senate by December 31, 1995. [1995 c 255 s 9.]

**RCW 17.26.015 Lead agency—Responsibilities.** (1) The state department of agriculture is the lead agency for the control of spartina and purple loosestrife with the advice of the state noxious weed control board.

(2) Responsibilities of the lead agency include:

(a) Coordination of the control program including memorandums of understanding, contracts, and agreements with local, state, federal, and tribal governmental entities and private parties;

(b) Preparation of a statewide spartina management plan utilizing integrated vegetation management strategies that encompass all of Washington's tidelands. The plan shall be developed in cooperation with local, state, federal, and tribal governments, private landowners, and concerned citizens. The plan shall prioritize areas for control. Nothing in this subsection prohibits the department from taking action to control spartina in a particular area of the state in accordance with a plan previously prepared by the state while preparing the statewide plan;

(c) Directing on the ground control efforts that include, but are not limited to: (i) Control work and contracts; (ii) spartina survey; (iii) collection and maintenance of spartina location data; (iv) purchasing equipment, goods, and services; (v) survey of threatened and endangered species; and (vi) site-specific environmental information and documents; and

(d) Evaluating the effectiveness of the control efforts.

The lead agency shall report to the appropriate standing committees of the house of representatives and the senate no later than December 15th of each year through the year 1999 on the progress of the program, the number of acres treated by various methods of control, and on the funds spent. [1998 c 245 s 4; 1995 c 255 s 10.]

**RCW 17.26.020 High priority for all state agencies—Definitions.**

(1) Facilitating the control of spartina and purple loosestrife is a high priority for all state agencies.

(2) The department of natural resources is responsible for spartina and purple loosestrife control on state-owned aquatic lands managed by the department of natural resources.



(3) The department of fish and wildlife is responsible for spartina and purple loosestrife control on state-owned aquatic lands managed by the department of fish and wildlife.

(4) The state parks and recreation commission is responsible for spartina and purple loosestrife control on state-owned aquatic lands managed by the state parks and recreation commission.

(5) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this subsection apply throughout this chapter, RCW 90.48.020, 90.58.030, and 77.55.081:

(a) "Spartina" means *Spartina alterniflora*, *Spartina anglica*, *Spartina x townsendii*, and *Spartina patens*.

(b) "Purple loosestrife" means *Lythrum salicaria* and *Lythrum virgatum*.

(c) "Aquatic noxious weed" means an aquatic weed on the state noxious weed list adopted under RCW 17.10.080. [2011 c 103 s 13; 2003 c 39 s 10; 1995 c 255 s 12.]

**Purpose—2011 c 103:** See note following RCW 15.26.120.

**RCW 17.26.901 Effective date—1995 c 255.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 5, 1995]. [1995 c 255 s 15.]

**Chapter 17.28 RCW**  
**MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICTS**

**Sections**

- 17.28.010 Definitions.
- 17.28.020 Districts may be organized in counties—Petition, presentment, signatures.
- 17.28.030 Petition method—Description of boundaries—Verification of signatures—Resolution to include city.
- 17.28.040 Petition method—Publication of petition and notice of meeting.
- 17.28.050 Resolution method.
- 17.28.060 Hearing—Defective petition—Establishment of boundaries.
- 17.28.070 Procedure to include other territory.
- 17.28.080 Determination of public necessity and compliance with chapter.
- 17.28.090 Declaration establishing and naming district—Election to form district—Establishment of district.
- 17.28.100 Election on proposition to levy tax.
- 17.28.110 Board of trustees—Composition.
- 17.28.120 Board of trustees—Name of board—Qualification of members.
- 17.28.130 Board of trustees—Terms—Vacancies.
- 17.28.140 Board of trustees—Organization—Officers—Compensation—Expenses.
- 17.28.150 Board of trustees—Meetings—Rules—Quorum.
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- 17.28.170 Mosquito breeding places declared public nuisance—Abatement.
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- 17.28.330 Annexation of territory authorized—Petition—Hearing—Boundaries.
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- 17.28.360 Consolidation of districts—Initial proceedings.
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- 17.28.420 Dissolution—Election.
- 17.28.430 Dissolution—Result of election to be certified—Certificate of dissolution.
- 17.28.440 Dissolution—Disposition of property.
- 17.28.450 Dissolution—Collection of taxes to discharge indebtedness.
- 17.28.900 Severability—1957 c 153.

*Special purpose districts, expenditures to recruit job candidates: RCW 42.24.170.*

**RCW 17.28.010 Definitions.** When used in this chapter, the following terms, words or phrases shall have the following meaning:

- (1) "District" means any mosquito control district formed pursuant to this chapter.
- (2) "Board" or "district board" means the board of trustees governing the district.
- (3) "County commissioners" means the governing body of the county.
- (4) "Unit" means all unincorporated territory in a proposed district in one county, regarded as an entity, or each city in a proposed district, likewise regarded as an entity.
- (5) "Territory" means any city or county or portion of either or both city or county having a population of not less than one hundred persons.
- (6) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, or joint stock association, and the legal successor thereof. [1957 c 153 s 1.]

**RCW 17.28.020 Districts may be organized in counties—Petition, presentment, signatures.** Any number of units of a territory within the state of Washington in Adams, Benton, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Walla Walla and Yakima counties or any other county may be organized as a mosquito control district under the provisions of this chapter.

A petition to form a district may consist of any number of separate instruments which shall be presented at a regular meeting of the county commissioners of the county in which the greater area of the proposed district is located. Petitions shall be signed by registered voters of each unit of the proposed district, equal in number to not less than ten percent of the votes cast in each unit

respectively for the office of governor at the last gubernatorial election prior to the time of presenting the petition. [1969 c 96 s 1; 1957 c 153 s 2.]

**RCW 17.28.030 Petition method—Description of boundaries—Verification of signatures—Resolution to include city.** Before a city can be included as a part of the proposed district its governing body shall have requested that the city be included by resolution, duly authenticated.

The petition shall set forth and describe the boundaries of the proposed district and it shall request that it be organized as a mosquito control district. Upon receipt of such a petition, the auditor of the county in which the greater area of the proposed district is located shall be charged with the responsibility of examining the same and certifying to the sufficiency of the signatures thereon. For the purpose of examining the signatures on such petitions, the auditor shall be permitted access to the voters' registration books of each city and county located in the proposed district and may appoint the respective county auditors and city clerks thereof as his or her deputies. No person may withdraw his or her name from a petition after it has been filed with the auditor. Within thirty days following the receipt of such petition, the auditor shall transmit the same to the board of commissioners of the county in which the greater area of the proposed district is located, together with his or her certificate as to the sufficiency thereof. [2011 c 336 s 462; 1957 c 153 s 3.]

**RCW 17.28.040 Petition method—Publication of petition and notice of meeting.** Upon receipt of a duly certified petition, the board of commissioners shall cause the text of the petition to be published once a week for at least three consecutive weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the county where the petition is presented and at each city a portion of which is included in the proposed district. If any portion of the proposed district lies in another county, the petition and notice shall be likewise published in that county.

Only one copy of the petition need be published even though the district embraces more than one unit. No more than five of the names attached to the petition need appear in the publication of the petition and notice, but the number of signers shall be stated.

With the publication of the petition there shall be published a notice of the time of the meeting of the county commissioners when the petition will be considered, stating that all persons interested may appear and be heard. [1957 c 153 s 4.]

**RCW 17.28.050 Resolution method.** Such districts may also be organized upon the adoption by the county commissioners of a resolution of intention so to do, in lieu of the procedure hereinbefore provided for the presentation of petitions. In the event the county commissioners adopt a resolution of intention, such resolution shall describe the boundaries of the proposed district and shall set a time and place at which they will consider the organization of the district, and shall state that all persons

interested may appear and be heard. Such resolution of intention shall be published in the same manner and for the same length of time as a petition. [1957 c 153 s 5.]

**RCW 17.28.060 Hearing—Defective petition—Establishment of boundaries.** At the time stated in the notice of the filing of the petition or the time mentioned in the resolution of intention, the county commissioners shall consider the organization of the district and hear those appearing and all protests and objections to it. The commissioners may adjourn the hearing from time to time, not exceeding two months in all.

No defect in the contents of the petition or in the title to or form of the notice or signatures, or lack of signatures thereto, shall vitiate any proceedings if the petition has a sufficient number of qualified signatures.

On the final hearing the county commissioners shall make such changes in the proposed boundaries as are advisable, and shall define and establish the boundaries. [1957 c 153 s 6.]

**RCW 17.28.070 Procedure to include other territory.** If the county commissioners deem it proper to include any territory not proposed for inclusion within the proposed boundaries, they shall first cause notice of intention to do so to be mailed to each owner of land in the territory whose name appears as owner on the last completed assessment roll of the county in which the territory lies, addressed to the owner at his or her address given on the assessment roll, or if no address is given, to his or her last known address; or if it is not known, at the county seat of the county in which his or her land lies. The notice shall describe the territory and shall fix a time, not less than two weeks from the date of mailing, when all persons interested may appear before the county commissioners and be heard.

The boundaries of a district lying in a city shall not be altered unless the governing board of the city, by resolution, consents to the alteration. [2011 c 336 s 463; 1957 c 153 s 7.]

**RCW 17.28.080 Determination of public necessity and compliance with chapter.** Upon the hearing of the petition the county commissioners shall determine whether the public necessity or welfare of the proposed territory and of its inhabitants requires the formation of the district, and shall also determine whether the petition complies with the provisions of this chapter, and for that purpose shall hear all competent and relevant testimony offered. [1957 c 153 s 8.]

**RCW 17.28.090 Declaration establishing and naming district—Election to form district—Establishment of district.** If, from the testimony given before the county commissioners, it appears to that board that the public necessity or welfare requires the formation of the district, it shall, by an order entered on its minutes, declare that to be its finding, and shall further declare and order that the territory within the boundaries so fixed and determined be organized

as a district, under an appropriate name to be selected by the county commissioners, subject to approval of the voters of the district as hereinafter provided. The name shall contain the words "mosquito control district."

At the time of the declaration establishing and naming the district, the county commissioners shall by resolution call a special election to be held not less than thirty days and not more than sixty days from the date thereof, and shall cause to be published a notice of such election at least once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, setting forth the hours during which the polls will be open, the boundaries of the proposed district as finally adopted, and the object of the election. If any portion of the proposed district lies in another county, a notice of such election shall likewise be published in that county.

The election on the formation of the mosquito control district shall be conducted by the auditor of the county in which the greater area of the proposed district is located in accordance with the general election laws of the state and the results thereof shall be canvassed by that county's canvassing board. For the purpose of conducting an election under this section, the auditor of the county in which the greater area of the proposed district is located may appoint the auditor of any county or the city clerk of any city lying wholly or partially within the proposed district as his or her deputies. No person shall be entitled to vote at such election unless he or she is a qualified voter under the laws of the state in effect at the time of such election and has resided within the mosquito control district for at least thirty days preceding the date of the election. The ballot proposition shall be in substantially the following form:

"Shall a mosquito control district be established for the area described in a resolution of the board of commissioners of ..... county adopted on the .... day of ....., (year)....?"

YES .....   
NO .....

If a majority of the persons voting on the proposition shall vote in favor thereof, the mosquito control district shall thereupon be established and the county commissioners of the county in which the greater area of the district is situated shall immediately file for record in the office of the county auditor of each county in which any portion of the land embraced in the district is situated, and shall also forward to the county commissioners of each of the other counties, if any, in which any portion of the district is situated, and also shall file with the secretary of state, a certified copy of the order of the county commissioners. From and after the date of the filing of the certified copy with the secretary of state, the district named therein is organized as a district, with all the rights, privileges, and powers set forth in this chapter, or necessarily incident thereto.

If a majority of the persons voting on the proposition shall vote in favor thereof, all expenses of the election shall be paid by the mosquito control district when organized. If the proposition fails to receive a majority of votes in favor, the expenses of the election shall be borne by the respective counties in which the district is

located in proportion to the number of votes cast in said counties.  
[2016 c 202 s 20; 2011 c 336 s 464; 1957 c 153 s 9.]

**RCW 17.28.100 Election on proposition to levy tax.** At the same election there shall be submitted to the voters residing within the district, for their approval or rejection, a proposition authorizing the mosquito control district, if formed, to levy at the earliest time permitted by law on all taxable property located within the mosquito control district a general tax, for one year, of up to twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value in excess of any constitutional or statutory limitation for authorized purposes of the mosquito control district. The proposition shall be expressed on the ballots in substantially the following form:

"ONE YEAR .....CENTS PER THOUSAND  
DOLLARS OF ASSESSED VALUE LEVY

Shall the mosquito control district, if formed, levy a general tax of ..... cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for one year upon all the taxable property within said district in excess of the constitutional and/or statutory tax limits for authorized purposes of the district?

YES .....   
NO .....

Such proposition to be effective must be approved by a majority of at least three-fifths of the persons voting on the proposition to levy such tax in the manner set forth in Article VII, section 2(a) of the Constitution of this state, as amended by Amendment 59 and as thereafter amended. [1982 c 217 s 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 2; 1957 c 153 s 10.]

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction**  
—1973 1st ex.s. c 195: See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**RCW 17.28.110 Board of trustees—Composition.** Within thirty days after the filing with the secretary of state of the certified copy of the order of formation, a governing board of trustees for the district shall be appointed. The district board shall be appointed as follows:

(1) If the district is situated in one county only and consists wholly of unincorporated territory, five members shall be appointed by the county commissioners of the county.

(2) If the district is situated entirely in one county and includes both incorporated and unincorporated territory one member shall be appointed from each commissioner district lying wholly or partly within the district by the county commissioners of the county, and one member from each city, the whole or part of which is situated in the district, by the governing body of the city; but if the district board created consists of less than five members, the county commissioners shall appoint from the district at large enough additional members to make a board of five members.

(3) If the district is situated in two or more counties and is comprised wholly of incorporated territory, one member shall be appointed from each commissioner district of each county or portion of

a county situated in the district by the county commissioners; but if the district board created consists of less than five members, the county commissioners of the county in which the greater area of the district is situated shall appoint from the district at large enough additional members to make a board of five members.

(4) If the district is situated in two or more counties and consists of both incorporated and unincorporated territory, one member shall be appointed by the county commissioners of each of the counties from that portion of the district lying within each commissioner district within its jurisdiction; and one member from each city, a portion of which is situated in the district by the governing body of the city; but if the board created consists of less than five members, the county commissioners in which the greater area of the district is situated shall appoint from the district at large enough additional members to make a board of five members. [1959 c 64 s 1; 1957 c 153 s 11.]

**RCW 17.28.120 Board of trustees—Name of board—Qualification of members.** The district board shall be called "The board of trustees of . . . . mosquito control district."

Each member of the board appointed by the governing body of a city shall be an elector of the city from which he or she is appointed and a resident of that portion of the city which is in the district.

Each member appointed from a county or portion of a county shall be an elector of the county and a resident of that portion of the county which is in the district.

Each member appointed at large shall be an elector of the district. [2011 c 336 s 465; 1957 c 153 s 12.]

**RCW 17.28.130 Board of trustees—Terms—Vacancies.** The members of the first board in any district shall classify themselves by lot at their first meeting so that:

(1) If the total membership is an even number, the terms of one-half the members will expire at the end of one year, and the terms of the remainder at the end of two years, from the second day of the calendar year next succeeding their appointment.

(2) If the total membership is an odd number, the terms of a bare majority of the members will expire at the end of one year, and the terms of the remainder at the end of two years, from the second day of the calendar year next succeeding their appointment.

The term of each subsequent member is two years from and after the expiration of the term of his or her predecessor.

In event of the resignation, death, or disability of any member, his or her successor shall be appointed by the governing body which appointed him or her. [2011 c 336 s 466; 1957 c 153 s 13.]

**RCW 17.28.140 Board of trustees—Organization—Officers—Compensation—Expenses.** The members of the first district board shall meet on the first Monday subsequent to thirty days after the filing with the secretary of state of the certificate of incorporation of the district. They shall organize by the election of one of their members as president and one as secretary.



The members of the district board shall serve without compensation; but the necessary expenses of each member for actual traveling in connection with meetings or business of the board may be allowed and paid.

The secretary shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the district board. [1957 c 153 s 14.]

**RCW 17.28.150 Board of trustees—Meetings—Rules—Quorum.** The district board shall provide for the time and place of holding its regular meetings, and the manner of calling them, and shall establish rules for its proceedings.

Special meetings may be called by three members, notice of which shall be given to each member at least twenty-four hours before the meeting.

All of its sessions, whether regular or special, shall be open to the public.

A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. [1957 c 153 s 15.]

**RCW 17.28.160 Powers of district.** A mosquito control district organized under this chapter may:

(1) Take all necessary or proper steps for the extermination of mosquitoes.

(2) Subject to the paramount control of the county or city in which they exist, abate as nuisances all stagnant pools of water and other breeding places for mosquitoes.

(3) If necessary or proper, in the furtherance of the objects of this chapter, build, construct, repair, and maintain necessary dikes, levees, cuts, canals, or ditches upon any land, and acquire by purchase, condemnation, or by other lawful means, in the name of the district, any lands, rights-of-way, easements, property, or material necessary for any of those purposes.

(4) Make contracts to indemnify or compensate any owner of land or other property for any injury or damage necessarily caused by the use or taking of property for dikes, levees, cuts, canals, or ditches.

(5) (a) Enter upon without hindrance any lands within the district and adjacent thereto for the purpose of inspection to ascertain whether breeding places of mosquitoes exist upon such lands; or to abate public nuisances in accordance with this chapter; or to ascertain if notices to abate the breeding of mosquitoes upon such lands have been complied with; or to treat using integrated pest management, as defined in RCW 17.15.010, methods in places where mosquitoes are found or are likely to exist upon such lands.

(b) For land adjacent to land within the district, a district must give prior written notice to the property owner of the district's intent to enter upon the land for the purposes specified in (a) of this subsection.

(6) Sell or lease any land, rights-of-way, easements, property or material acquired by the district.

(7) Issue warrants payable at the time stated therein to evidence the obligation to repay money borrowed or any other obligation incurred by the district, warrants so issued to draw interest at a rate fixed by the board payable annually or semiannually as the board may prescribe.

(8) Make contracts with the United States, or any state, municipality, or any department of those entities for carrying out the general purpose for which the district is formed.

(9) Acquire by gift, devise, bequest, lease, or purchase, real and personal property necessary or convenient for its purposes.

(10) Make contracts, employ engineers, health officers, sanitarians, physicians, laboratory personnel, attorneys, and other technical or professional assistants; and publish information or literature and do any and all other things necessary or incident to the powers granted by, and to carry out the projects specified in this chapter.

(11) Subject to management considerations identified during consultation with the landowner, cut or remove shrubbery or undergrowth as necessary or proper in order to carry out this chapter. [2013 c 208 s 1; 1981 c 156 s 1; 1957 c 153 s 16.]

**RCW 17.28.170 Mosquito breeding places declared public nuisance—Abatement.** Any breeding place for mosquitoes which exists by reason of any use made of the land on which it is found or of any artificial change in its natural condition is a public nuisance: PROVIDED, That conditions or usage of land which are beyond the control of the landowner or are not contrary to normal, accepted practices of water usage in the district, shall not be considered a public nuisance.

The nuisance may be abated in any action or proceeding, or by any remedy provided by law. [1959 c 64 s 2; 1957 c 153 s 17.]

**RCW 17.28.175 Control of mosquitoes—Declaration that owner is responsible.** A board established pursuant to RCW 17.28.110 may adopt, by resolution, a policy declaring that the control of mosquitoes within the district is the responsibility of the owner of the land from which the mosquitoes originate. To protect the public health or welfare, the board may, in accordance with policies and standards established by the board following a public hearing, adopt a regulation requiring owners of land within the district to perform such acts as may be necessary to control mosquitoes. [1990 c 300 s 2.]

**RCW 17.28.185 Control of mosquitoes—Noncompliance by landowner with regulations.** (1) Whenever the board finds that the owner has not taken prompt and sufficient action to comply with regulations adopted pursuant to RCW 17.28.175 to control mosquitoes originating from the owner's land, the board shall notify the owner that a violation of this chapter exists. The notice shall be in writing and sent by certified mail, or served by personal service. The notice shall provide a reasonable time period for action to be taken to control mosquitoes. If the board deems that a public nuisance or threat to public health or welfare caused by the mosquito infestation is sufficiently severe, it may require immediate control action to be taken within forty-eight hours following the time that notification is reasonably expected to have been received by the owner or agent by certified mail or personal service.

(2) If the owner does not take sufficient action to control mosquitoes in accordance with the notice, the board may control them,

or cause their being controlled, at the expense of the owner. The amount of such expense shall constitute a lien against the property and may be enforced by proceedings on such lien. The owner shall be liable for payment of the expenses, and nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent collection of any judgment on account thereof by any means available pursuant to law, in substitution for enforcement of the lien. Necessary costs and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by the board in carrying out this section, may be recovered at the same time, as a part of the action filed under this section. The venue in proceedings for reimbursement of expenses brought pursuant to this section, including those involving governmental entities, shall be the county in which the real property that is the subject of the action is situated. [1990 c 300 s 3.]

**RCW 17.28.250 Interference with entry or work of district—**  
**Penalty.** Any person who obstructs, hinders, or interferes with the entry upon any land within the district of any officer or employee of the district in the performance of his or her duty, and any person who obstructs, interferes with, molests, or damages any work performed by the district, is guilty of a misdemeanor. [2011 c 336 s 467; 1957 c 153 s 25.]

**RCW 17.28.251 Borrowing money or issuing warrants in anticipation of revenue.** A mosquito control district may, prior to the receipt of taxes raised by levy, borrow money or issue warrants of the district in anticipation of revenue, and such warrants shall be redeemed from the first money available from such taxes. [1959 c 64 s 3.]

**RCW 17.28.252 Excess levy authorized.** A mosquito control district shall have the power to levy additional taxes in excess of the constitutional and/or statutory limitations for any of the authorized purposes of such district, not in excess of fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value per year when authorized so to do by the electors of such district by a three-fifths majority of those voting on the proposition in the manner set forth in Article VII, section 2(a) of the Constitution of this state, as amended by Amendment 59 and as thereafter amended at such time as may be fixed by the board of trustees for the district, which special election may be called by the board of trustees of the district, at which special election the proposition of authorizing such excess levy shall be submitted in such form as to enable the voters favoring the proposition to vote "Yes" and those opposing thereto to vote "No". Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent holding the foregoing special election at the same time as that fixed for a general election. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 3; 1959 c 64 s 4.]

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction**  
**—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**RCW 17.28.253 District boundaries for tax purposes.** For the purpose of property taxation and the levying of property taxes the boundaries of the mosquito control district shall be the established official boundary of such district existing on the first day of September of the year in which the levy is made, and no such levy shall be made for any mosquito control district whose boundaries are not duly established on the first day of September of such year. [1959 c 64 s 5.]

**RCW 17.28.254 Abatement, extermination declared necessity and benefit to land.** It is hereby declared that whenever the public necessity or welfare has required the formation of a mosquito control district, the abatement or extermination of mosquitoes within the district is of direct, economic benefit to the land located within such district and is necessary for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare of those residing therein. [1959 c 64 s 6.]

**RCW 17.28.255 Classification of property—Assessments.** The board of trustees shall annually determine the amount of money necessary to carry on the operations of the district and shall classify the property therein in proportion to the benefits to be derived from the operations of the district and in accordance with such classification shall apportion and assess the several lots, blocks, tracts, and parcels of land or other property within the district, which assessment shall be collected with the general taxes of the county or counties. A mosquito control district must use the assessed value applicable to forestland, farm and agricultural land, or open space land, under chapter 84.33 or 84.34 RCW, when the land has been designated as such and the assessed value is used as a component in determining the district assessment. If a district uses a fractional amount of assessed value as a component in determining the district assessment, then a fractional amount of the value applicable to forestland, farm and agricultural land, or open space land, under chapter 84.33 or 84.34 RCW, shall be used. [2005 c 181 s 2; 1959 c 64 s 7.]

**RCW 17.28.256 Assessments—Roll, hearings, notices, objections, appeal, etc.** The board of trustees in assessing the property within the district and the rights, duties and liabilities of property owners therein shall be governed, insofar as is consistent with this chapter, by the provisions for county road improvement districts as set forth in RCW 36.88.090 through 36.88.110. [1959 c 64 s 8.]

**RCW 17.28.257 Assessments—Payment, lien, delinquencies, foreclosure, etc.** The provisions of chapters 84.56 and 84.64 RCW and RCW 36.29.180 governing liens, collection, payment of assessments, delinquent assessments, interest and penalties, lien foreclosure and foreclosed property shall govern such matters as applied to mosquito control districts. [2020 c 54 s 1; 1959 c 64 s 9.]

**RCW 17.28.258 County treasurer—Duties.** The county treasurer shall collect all mosquito control district assessments, and the duties and responsibilities herein imposed upon him or her shall be among the duties and responsibilities of his or her office for which his or her bond is given as county treasurer. The collection and disposition of revenue from such assessments and the depository thereof shall be the same as for tax revenues of such districts as provided in RCW 17.28.270. [2011 c 336 s 468; 1959 c 64 s 10.]

**RCW 17.28.260 General obligation bonds—Excess property tax levies.** A mosquito control district shall have the power to issue general obligation bonds and to pledge the full faith and credit of the district to the payment thereof, for authorized capital purposes of the mosquito control district, and to provide for the retirement thereof by excess property tax levies whenever a proposition authorizing both the issuance of such bonds and the imposition of such excess levies has been approved by the voters of the district, at an election held pursuant to RCW 39.36.050, by three-fifths of the persons voting on said proposition at said election at which such election the total number of persons voting on such bond proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast within the area of said mosquito control district at the last preceding county or state general election. Mosquito control districts may become indebted for capital purposes up to an amount equal to one and one-fourth percent of the value of the taxable property in the district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015.

Such bonds shall never be issued to run for a longer period than ten years from the date of issue and shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1984 c 186 s 5; 1983 c 167 s 18; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 s 4; 1970 ex.s. c 56 s 5; 1969 ex.s. c 232 s 65; 1957 c 153 s 26.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**RCW 17.28.270 Collection, disposition, of revenue—Depository.** All taxes levied under this chapter shall be computed and entered on the county assessment roll and collected at the same time and in the same manner as other county taxes. When collected, the taxes shall be paid into the county treasury for the use of the district.

If the district is in more than one county the treasury of the county in which the district is organized is the depository of all funds of the district.

The treasurers of the other counties shall, at any time, not oftener than twice each year, upon the order of the district board settle with the district board and pay over to the treasurer of the county where the district is organized all money in their possession belonging to the district. The last named treasurer shall give a receipt for the money and place it to the credit of the district. [1957 c 153 s 27.]

**RCW 17.28.280 Withdrawal of funds.** The funds shall only be withdrawn from the county treasury depository upon the warrant of the district board signed by its president or acting president, and countersigned by its secretary. [1957 c 153 s 28.]

**RCW 17.28.290 Matching funds.** Any part or all of the taxes collected for use of the district may be used for matching funds made available to the district by county, state, or federal governmental agencies. [1957 c 153 s 29.]

**RCW 17.28.300 Expenses of special elections.** All expenses of any special election conducted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be paid by the mosquito control district. [1957 c 153 s 30.]

**RCW 17.28.310 Annual certification of assessed valuation.** It shall be the duty of the assessor of each county lying wholly or partially within the district to certify annually to the board the aggregate assessed valuation of all taxable property in his or her county situated in any mosquito control district as the same appears from the last assessment roll of his or her county. [2011 c 336 s 469; 1957 c 153 s 31.]

**RCW 17.28.320 Annexation of territory authorized—Consent by city.** Any territory contiguous to a district may be annexed to the district.

If the territory to be annexed is in a city, consent to the annexation shall first be obtained from the governing body of the city. An authenticated copy of the resolution or order of that body consenting to the annexation shall be attached to the annexation petition. [1957 c 153 s 32.]

**RCW 17.28.330 Annexation of territory authorized—Petition—Hearing—Boundaries.** The district board, upon receiving a written petition for annexation containing a description of the territory sought to be annexed, signed by registered voters in said territory equal in number to at least ten percent of the number of votes cast in the territory for the office of governor at the last gubernatorial election prior to the time the petition is presented, shall set the petition for hearing. It shall publish notice of the hearing along with a copy of the petition, stating the time and place set for the hearing, in each county in which any part of the district or of the

territory is situated, and in each city situated wholly or in part in the territory. Not more than five of the names attached to the petition need appear in the publication, but the number of signers shall be stated.

At the time set for the hearing the district board shall hear persons appearing in behalf of the petition and all protests and objections to it. The district board may adjourn the hearing from time to time, but not exceeding two months in all.

On the final hearing the district board shall make such changes as it believes advisable in the boundaries of the territory, and shall define and establish the boundaries. It shall also determine whether the petition meets the requirements of this chapter. [1957 c 153 s 33.]

**RCW 17.28.340 Annexation of territory authorized—Order of annexation—Election.** If upon the hearing the district board finds that the petition and the proceedings thereon meet the requirements of this chapter and that it is desirable and to the interests of the district and of the territory proposed to be annexed that the territory, with boundaries as fixed and determined by the district board, or any portion of it, should be annexed to the district, the board shall order the boundaries of the district changed to include the territory, or portion of the territory, subject to approval of the electors of the territory proposed to be annexed. The election to be conducted and the returns canvassed and declared insofar as is practicable in accordance with the requirements of this chapter for the formation of a district. The expenses of such election shall be borne by the mosquito control district regardless of the outcome of the election.

The order of annexation shall describe the boundaries of the annexed territory and that portion of the boundary of the district which coincides with any boundary of the territory. If necessary in making this order, the board may have any portion of the boundaries surveyed.

If more than one petition for the annexation of the territory has been presented, the district board may in one order include in the district any number of separate territories. [1957 c 153 s 34.]

**RCW 17.28.350 Annexation of territory authorized—Filing of order—Composition of board.** The order of annexation shall be entered in the minutes of the board and certified copies shall be filed with the secretary of state and with the county clerk and county auditor of each county in which the district or any part of it is situated.

From and after the date of the filing and recording of the certified copies of the order, the territory described in the order is a part of the district, with all the rights, privileges, and powers set forth in this act and those necessarily incident thereto.

After the annexation of territory to a district, the district board shall consist of the number of members and shall be appointed in the manner prescribed by this chapter for a district formed originally with boundaries embracing the annexed territory. However, the members of the district board in office at the time of the annexation shall continue to serve as members during the remainder of the terms for which they were appointed. [1957 c 153 s 35.]

**RCW 17.28.360 Consolidation of districts—Initial proceedings.**

Whenever in the judgment of the district board it is for the best interests of the district that it be consolidated with one or more other districts, it may, by a two-thirds vote of its members, adopt a resolution reciting that fact and declaring the advisability of such consolidation and the willingness of the board to consolidate. The resolution shall be sent to the board of each district with which consolidation is proposed.

The board of each district to which a proposal of consolidation is sent shall consider said proposal and give notice of its decision to the proposing board. [1957 c 153 s 36.]

**RCW 17.28.370 Consolidation of districts—Concurrent resolution.**

Should it appear that two-thirds of the members of each of the boards of districts proposed to be consolidated favor consolidation each of said boards shall then, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of its members adopt a concurrent resolution in favor of consolidation, declaring its willingness to consolidate, specifying a name for the consolidated district. Immediately upon the adoption of said concurrent resolution a copy of same signed by not less than two-thirds of the members of each board shall be forwarded to the county commissioners of the county in which all of or a major portion of the land of all, the districts consolidated are situated. [1957 c 153 s 37.]

**RCW 17.28.380 Consolidation of districts—Election.**

When the concurrent resolution for consolidation has been adopted, each board of the districts proposed for consolidation shall forthwith call a special election in its district in which shall be presented to the electors of the districts the question whether the consolidation shall be effected.

The election shall be conducted and the returns canvassed and declared insofar as is practicable in accordance with the requirements of this chapter for the formation of a district.

The board of each district shall declare the returns of the election in its district, and shall certify the results to the county commissioners of the county in which all the districts, or the major portion of the land of all the districts, are situated. [1957 c 153 s 38.]

**RCW 17.28.390 Consolidation of districts—Order of consolidation.**

Should not less than two-thirds of the votes of each of the respective districts proposed to be consolidated favor consolidation the county commissioners shall immediately:

(1) Enter an order on its minutes consolidating all of the districts proposed for consolidation into one district with name as specified in the concurrent resolution.

(2) Transmit a certified copy of the order to the county commissioners of any other county in which any portion of the consolidated district is situated.

(3) Record a copy in the office of the county auditor of each of the counties in which any portion of the consolidated district is situated.



(4) File a copy in the office of the secretary of state.

After the transmission, recording and filing of the order, the territory in the districts entering into the consolidation proposal forms a single consolidated district. [1957 c 153 s 39.]

**RCW 17.28.400 Consolidation of districts—Composition of board.**

After the consolidation, the board of the consolidated district shall consist of the number and shall be appointed in the manner prescribed by this chapter for a district originally formed.

The terms of the members of the district boards of the several districts consolidated who are in office at the time of consolidation shall terminate at the time the consolidation becomes effective. [1957 c 153 s 40.]

**RCW 17.28.410 Consolidation of districts—Powers of consolidated district—Indebtedness of former districts.** The consolidated district has all the rights, powers, duties, privileges and obligations of a district formed originally under the provisions of this chapter.

If at the time of consolidation there is outstanding an indebtedness of any of the former districts included in the consolidated district, that indebtedness shall be paid in the manner provided for the payment of indebtedness upon dissolution of a district.

A consolidated district shall not be liable for any indebtedness of any of the former districts included in it which was outstanding at the time of consolidation.

No property in any of the former districts shall be taxed to pay any indebtedness of any other former district existing at the date of the consolidation. [1957 c 153 s 41.]

**RCW 17.28.420 Dissolution—Election.** The district may at any time be dissolved upon the vote of two-thirds of the qualified electors in the district at a special election called by the district board upon the question. The question shall be submitted as, "Shall the district be dissolved?", or words to that effect.

Notice of the election shall be published at least once a week for at least four weeks prior to the date of the election in a newspaper of general circulation in each county of the district. [1957 c 153 s 42.]

**RCW 17.28.430 Dissolution—Result of election to be certified—Certificate of dissolution.** Should two-thirds or more of the votes at the election favor dissolution the district board shall certify that fact to the secretary of state. Upon receipt of such certification the secretary of state shall issue his or her certificate reciting that the district (naming it) has been dissolved, and shall transmit to and file a copy with the county clerk of each county in which any portion of the district is situated.

After the date of the certificate of the secretary of state, the district is dissolved. [2011 c 336 s 470; 1957 c 153 s 43.]

**RCW 17.28.440 Dissolution—Disposition of property.** If the district at the time of dissolution was wholly within unincorporated territory in one county, its property vests in that county.

If the district at the time of dissolution was situated wholly within the boundaries of a single city, its property vests in that city.

If the district at the time of dissolution comprised only unincorporated territory in two or more counties, its property vests in those counties in proportion to the assessed value of each county's property within the boundaries of the district as shown on the last equalized county assessment roll.

If the district at the time of dissolution comprised both incorporated and unincorporated territory, its property vests in each unit in proportion as its assessed property value lies within the boundaries of the district: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any real property, easements, or rights-of-way vest in the city in which they are situated or in the county in which they are situated. [1957 c 153 s 44.]

**RCW 17.28.450 Dissolution—Collection of taxes to discharge indebtedness.** If, at the time of election to dissolve, a district has outstanding any indebtedness, the vote to dissolve the district dissolves it for all purposes except the levy and collection of taxes for the payment of the indebtedness, and expenses of assessing, levying, and collecting such taxes.

Until the indebtedness is paid, the county commissioners of the county in which the greater portion of the district was situated shall act as the ex officio district board and shall levy taxes and perform such functions as may be necessary in order to pay the indebtedness. [1957 c 153 s 45.]

**RCW 17.28.900 Severability—1957 c 153.** If any part, or parts, of this chapter shall be held unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall be given full force and effect, as completely as if the part held unconstitutional had not been included therein, if any such remaining part can then be administered in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter. [1957 c 153 s 46.]

**Chapter 17.34 RCW**  
**PEST CONTROL COMPACT**

**Sections**

- 17.34.010 Compact provisions.
- 17.34.020 Cooperation with insurance fund authorized.
- 17.34.030 Filing of bylaws and amendments.
- 17.34.040 Compact administrator.
- 17.34.050 Requests or applications for assistance from insurance fund.
- 17.34.060 Agency incurring expenses to be credited with payments to this state.
- 17.34.070 "Executive head" defined.

**RCW 17.34.010 Compact provisions.** The pest control compact is hereby enacted into law and entered into with all other jurisdiction legally joining therein in the form substantially as follows:

ARTICLE I  
FINDINGS

The party states find that:

1. In the absence of the higher degree of cooperation among them possible under this compact, the annual loss of approximately seven billion dollars from the depredations of pests is virtually certain to continue, if not to increase.
2. Because of varying climatic, geographic and economic factors, each state may be affected differently by particular species of pests; but all states share the inability to protect themselves fully against those pests which present serious dangers to them.
3. The migratory character of pest infestations makes it necessary for states both adjacent to and distant from one another, to complement each other's activities when faced with conditions of infestation and reinfestation.
4. While every state is seriously affected by a substantial number of pests, and every state is susceptible of infestation by many species of pests not now causing damage to its crop and plant life and products, the fact that relatively few species of pests present equal danger to or are of interest to all states makes the establishment and operation of an Insurance Fund, from which individual states may obtain financial support for pest control programs of benefit to them in other states and to which they may contribute in accordance with their relative interests, the most equitable means of financing cooperative pest eradication and control programs.

ARTICLE II  
DEFINITIONS

As used in this compact, unless the context clearly requires a different construction:

1. "State" means a state, territory or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
2. "Requesting state" means a state which invokes the procedures of the compact to secure the undertaking or intensification of measures to control or eradicate one or more pests within one or more other states.

3. "Responding state" means a state request to undertake or intensify the measures referred to in subdivision (2) of this Article.

4. "Pest" means any invertebrate animal, pathogen, parasitic plant or similar or allied organism which can cause disease or damage in any crops, trees, shrubs, grasses or other plants of substantial value.

5. "Insurance Fund" means the Pest Control Insurance Fund established pursuant to this compact.

6. "Governing Board" means the administrators of this compact representing all of the party states when such administrators are acting as a body in pursuance of authority vested in them by this compact.

7. "Executive Committee" means the committee established pursuant to Article V(E) of this compact.

### ARTICLE III THE INSURANCE FUND

There is hereby established the Pest Control Insurance Fund for the purpose of financing other than normal pest control operations which states may be called upon to engage in pursuant to this compact. The Insurance Fund shall contain moneys appropriated to it by the party states and any donations and grants accepted by it. All appropriations, except as conditioned by the rights and obligations of party states expressly set forth in this compact, shall be unconditional and may not be restricted by the appropriating state to use in the control of any specified pest or pests. Donations and grants may be conditional or unconditional, provided that the Insurance Fund shall not accept any donation or grant whose terms are inconsistent with any provision of this compact.

### ARTICLE IV THE INSURANCE FUND, INTERNAL OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

- A. The Insurance Fund shall be administered by a Governing Board and Executive Committee as hereinafter provided. The actions of the Governing Board and Executive Committee pursuant to this compact shall be deemed the actions of the Insurance Fund.
- B. The members of the Governing Board shall be entitled to one vote each on such Board. No action of the Governing Board shall be binding unless taken at a meeting at which a majority of the total number of votes on the Governing Board are cast in favor thereof. Action of the Governing Board shall be only at a meeting at which a majority of the members are present.
- C. The Insurance Fund shall have a seal which may be employed as an official symbol and which may be affixed to documents and otherwise used as the Governing Board may provide.
- D. The Governing Board shall elect annually, from among its members, a chairman, a vice chairman, a secretary and a treasurer. The chairman may not succeed himself. The Governing Board may appoint an executive director and fix his duties and his compensation, if any. Such executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the Governing Board. The Governing Board shall make provisions for the bonding of such of the officers and employees of the Insurance Fund as may be appropriate.

- E. Irrespective of the civil service, personnel or other merit system laws of any of the party states, the executive director, or if there be no executive director, the chairman, in accordance with such procedures as the bylaws may provide, shall appoint, remove or discharge such personnel as may be necessary for the performance of the functions of the Insurance Fund and shall fix the duties and compensation of such personnel. The Governing Board in its bylaws shall provide for the personnel policies and programs of the Insurance Fund.
- F. The Insurance Fund may borrow, accept or contract for the services of personnel from any state, the United States, or any other governmental agency, or from any person, firm, association or corporation.
- G. The Insurance Fund may accept for any of its purposes and functions under this compact any and all donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services, conditional or otherwise, from any state, the United States, or any other governmental agency, or from any person, firm, association or corporation, and may receive, utilize and dispose of the same. Any donation, gift or grant accepted by the Governing Board pursuant to this paragraph or services borrowed pursuant to paragraph (F) of this Article shall be reported in the annual report of the Insurance Fund. Such report shall include the nature, amount and conditions, if any, of the donation, gift, grant or services borrowed and the identity of the donor or lender.
- H. The Governing Board shall adopt bylaws for the conduct of the business of the Insurance Fund and shall have the power to amend and rescind these bylaws. The Insurance Fund shall publish its bylaws in convenient form and shall file a copy thereof and a copy of any amendment thereto with the appropriate agency or officer in each of the party states.
- I. The Insurance Fund annually shall make to the Governor and legislature of each party state a report covering its activities for the preceding year. The Insurance Fund may make such additional reports as it may deem desirable.
- J. In addition to the powers and duties specifically authorized and imposed, the Insurance Fund may do such other things as are necessary and incidental to the conduct of its affairs pursuant to this compact.

#### ARTICLE V

##### COMPACT AND INSURANCE FUND ADMINISTRATION

- A. In each party state there shall be a compact administrator, who shall be selected and serve in such manner as the laws of his state may provide, and who shall:
  - 1. Assist in the coordination of activities pursuant to the compact in his state; and
  - 2. Represent his state on the Governing Board of the Insurance Fund.
- B. If the laws of the United States specifically so provide, or if administrative provision is made therefor within the Federal Government, the United States may be represented on the Governing Board of the Insurance Fund by not to exceed three representatives. Any such representative or

- representatives of the United States shall be appointed and serve in such manner as may be provided by or pursuant to federal law, but no such representative shall have a vote on the Governing Board or on the Executive Committee thereof.
- C. The Governing Board shall meet at least once each year for the purpose of determining policies and procedures in the administration of the Insurance Fund and, consistent with the provisions of the compact, supervising and giving direction to the expenditure of moneys from the Insurance Fund. Additional meetings of the Governing Board shall be held on call of the chairman, the Executive Committee, or a majority of the membership of the Governing Board.
  - D. At such times as it may be meeting, the Governing Board shall pass upon applications for assistance from the Insurance Fund and authorize disbursements therefrom. When the Governing Board is not in session, the Executive Committee thereof shall act as agent of the Governing Board, with full authority to act for it in passing upon such applications.
  - E. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the chairman of the Governing Board and four additional members of the Governing Board chosen by it so that there shall be one member representing each of four geographic groupings of party states. The Governing Board shall make such geographic groupings. If there is representation of the United States on the Governing Board one such representative may meet with the Executive Committee. The chairman of the Governing Board shall be chairman of the Executive Committee. No action of the Executive Committee shall be binding unless taken at a meeting at which at least four members of such Committee are present and vote in favor thereof. Necessary expenses of each of the five members of the Executive Committee incurred in attending meetings of such Committee, when not held at the same time and place as a meeting of the Governing Board, shall be charges against the Insurance Fund.

ARTICLE VI  
ASSISTANCE AND REIMBURSEMENT

- A. Each party state pledges to each other party state that it will employ its best efforts to eradicate, or control within the strictest practicable limits, any and all pests. It is recognized that performance of this responsibility involves:
  - 1. The maintenance of pest control and eradication activities of interstate significance by a party state at a level that would be reasonable for its own protection in the absence of this compact.
  - 2. The meeting of emergency outbreaks or infestations of interstate significance to no less an extent than would have been done in the absence of this compact.
- B. Whenever a party state is threatened by a pest not present within its borders but present within another party state, or whenever a party state is undertaking or engaged in activities for the control or eradication of a pest or pests, and finds that such activities are or would be impracticable or substantially more difficult of success by

reason of failure of another party state to cope with infestation or threatened infestation, that state may request the Governing Board to authorize expenditures from the Insurance Fund for eradication or control measures to be taken by one or more of such other party states at a level sufficient to prevent, or to reduce to the greatest practicable extent, infestation or reinfestation of the requesting state. Upon such authorization the responding state or states shall take or increase such eradication or control measures as may be warranted. A responding state shall use moneys made available from the Insurance Fund expeditiously and efficiently to assist in affording the protection requested.

- C. In order to apply for expenditures from the Insurance Fund, a requesting state shall submit the following in writing:
1. A detailed statement of the circumstances which occasion the request for the invoking of the compact.
  2. Evidence that the pest on account of whose eradication or control assistance is requested constitutes a danger to an agricultural or forest crop, product, tree, shrub, grass or other plant having a substantial value to the requesting state.
  3. A statement of the extent of the present and projected program of the requesting state and its subdivision, including full information as to the legal authority for the conduct of such program or programs and the expenditures being made or budgeted therefor, in connection with the eradication, control, or prevention of introduction of the pest concerned.
  4. Proof that the expenditures being made or budgeted as detailed in item 3 do not constitute a reduction of the effort for the control or eradication of the pest concerned or, if there is a reduction, the reasons why the level of program detailed in item 3 constitutes a normal level of pest control activity.
  5. A declaration as to whether, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the conditions which in its view occasion the invoking of the compact in the particular instance can be abated by a program undertaken with the aid of moneys from the Insurance Fund in one year or less, or whether the request is for an installment in a program which is likely to continue for a longer period of time.
  6. Such other information as the Governing Board may require consistent with the provisions of this compact.
- D. The Governing Board or Executive Committee shall give due notice of any meeting at which an application for assistance from the Insurance Fund is to be considered. Such notice shall be given to the compact administrator of each party state and to such other officers and agencies as may be designated by the laws of the party states. The requesting

state and any other party state shall be entitled to be represented and present evidence and argument at such meeting.

- E. Upon the submission as required by paragraph (C) of this Article and such other information as it may have or acquire, and upon determining that an expenditure of funds is within the purposes of this compact and justified thereby, the Governing Board or Executive Committee shall authorize support of the program. The Governing Board or the Executive Committee may meet at any time or place for the purpose of receiving and considering an application. Any and all determinations of the Governing Board or Executive Committee, with respect to an application, together with the reasons therefor shall be recorded and subscribed in such manner as to show and preserve the votes of the individual members thereof.
- F. A requesting state which is dissatisfied with a determination of the Executive Committee shall upon notice in writing given within twenty days of the determination with which it is dissatisfied, be entitled to receive a review thereof at the next meeting of the Governing Board. Determinations of the Executive Committee shall be reviewable only by the Governing Board at one of its regular meetings, or at a special meeting held in such manner as the Governing Board may authorize.
- G. Responding states required to undertake or increase measures pursuant to this compact may receive moneys from the Insurance Fund, either at the time or times when such state incurs expenditures on account of such measures, or as reimbursement for expenses incurred and chargeable to the Insurance Fund. The Governing Board shall adopt and, from time to time, may amend or revise procedures for submission of claims upon it and for payment thereof.
- H. Before authorizing the expenditure of moneys from the Insurance Fund pursuant to an application of a requesting state, the Insurance Fund shall ascertain the extent and nature of any timely assistance or participation which may be available from the Federal Government and shall request the appropriate agency or agencies of the Federal Government for such assistance and participation.
- I. The Insurance Fund may negotiate and execute a memorandum of understanding or other appropriate instrument defining the extent and degree of assistance or participation between and among the Insurance Fund, cooperating federal agencies, states and any other entities concerned.

#### ARTICLE VII ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

The Governing Board may establish advisory and technical committees composed of state, local, and federal officials, and private persons to advise it with respect to any one or more of its functions. Any such advisory or technical committee, or any member or members thereof may meet with and participate in its deliberations. Upon request of the Governing Board or Executive Committee an advisory or technical committee may furnish information and recommendations with respect to any application for assistance from the Insurance Fund being considered by such Board or Committee and the Board or Committee may



receive and consider the same: provided that any participant in a meeting of the Governing Board or Executive Committee held pursuant to Article VI(D) of the compact shall be entitled to know the substance of any such information and recommendations, at the time of the meeting if made prior thereto or as a part thereof or, if made thereafter, no later than the time at which the Governing Board or Executive Committee makes its disposition of the application.

ARTICLE VIII  
RELATIONS WITH NONPARTY JURISDICTIONS

- A. A party state may make application for assistance from the Insurance Fund in respect of a pest in a nonparty state. Such application shall be considered and disposed of by the Governing Board or Executive Committee in the same manner as an application with respect to a pest within a party state, except as provided in this Article.
- B. At or in connection with any meeting of the Governing Board or Executive Committee held pursuant to Article VI(D) of this compact a nonparty state shall be entitled to appear, participate, and receive information only to such extent as the Governing Board or Executive Committee may provide. A nonparty state shall not be entitled to review of any determination made by the Executive Committee.
- C. The Governing Board or Executive Committee shall authorize expenditures from the Insurance Fund to be made in a nonparty state only after determining that the conditions in such state and the value of such expenditures to the party states as a whole justify them. The Governing Board or Executive Committee may set any conditions which it deems appropriate with respect to the expenditure of moneys from the Insurance Fund in a nonparty state and may enter into such agreement or agreements with nonparty states and other jurisdictions or entities as it may deem necessary or appropriate to protect the interests of the Insurance Fund with respect to expenditures and activities outside of party states.

ARTICLE IX  
FINANCE

- A. The Insurance Fund shall submit to the executive head or designated officer or officers of each party state a budget for the Insurance Fund for such period as may be required by the laws of that party state for presentation to the legislature thereof.
- B. Each of the budgets shall contain specific recommendations of the amount or amounts to be appropriated by each of the party states. The requests for appropriations shall be apportioned among the party states as follows: one-tenth of the total budget in equal shares and the remainder in proportion to the value of agricultural and forest crops and products, excluding animals and animal products, produced in each party state. In determining the value of such crops and products the Insurance Fund may employ such source or sources of information as in its judgment present the most equitable and accurate comparisons among the party states. Each of the budgets and requests for appropriations shall

indicate the source or sources used in obtaining information concerning value of products.

- C. The financial assets of the Insurance Fund shall be maintained in two accounts to be designated respectively as the "Operating Account" and the "Claims Account". The Operating Account shall consist only of those assets necessary for the administration of the Insurance Fund during the next ensuing two-year period. The Claims Account shall contain all moneys not included in the Operating Account and shall not exceed the amount reasonably estimated to be sufficient to pay all legitimate claims on the Insurance Fund for a period of three years. At any time when the Claims Account has reached its maximum limit or would reach its maximum limit by the addition of moneys requested for appropriation by the party states, the Governing Board shall reduce its budget requests on a pro rata basis in such manner as to keep the Claims Account within such maximum limit. Any moneys in the Claims Account by virtue of conditional donations, grants or gifts shall be included in calculations made pursuant to this paragraph only to the extent that such moneys are available to meet demands arising out of claims.
- D. The Insurance Fund shall not pledge the credit of any party state. The Insurance Fund may meet any of its obligations in whole or in part with moneys available to it under Article IV(G) of this compact, provided that the Governing Board takes specific action setting aside such moneys prior to incurring any obligation to be met in whole or in part in such manner. Except where the Insurance Fund makes use of moneys available to it under Article IV(G) hereof, the Insurance Fund shall not incur any obligation prior to the allotment of moneys by the party states adequate to meet the same.
- E. The Insurance Fund shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the Insurance Fund shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the Insurance Fund shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant and a report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the Insurance Fund.
- F. The accounts of the Insurance Fund shall be open at any reasonable time for inspection by duly authorized officers of the party states and by any persons authorized by the Insurance Fund.

ARTICLE X  
ENTRY INTO FORCE AND WITHDRAWAL

- A. This compact shall enter into force when enacted into law by any five or more states: provided, that one such state is contiguous to this state and the legislature has appropriated the necessary funds. Thereafter, this compact shall become effective as to any other state upon its enactment thereof.
- B. Any party state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the same, but no such withdrawal shall

take effect until two years after the executive head of the withdrawing state has given notice in writing of the withdrawal to the executive heads of all other party states. No withdrawal shall affect any liability already incurred by or chargeable to a party state prior to the time of such withdrawal.

ARTICLE XI  
CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any state participating herein, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining party states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters. [1969 ex.s. c 130 s 1.]

**RCW 17.34.020 Cooperation with insurance fund authorized.**

Consistent with law and within available appropriations, the departments, agencies and officers of this state may cooperate with the insurance fund established by the Pest Control Compact. [1969 ex.s. c 130 s 2.]

**RCW 17.34.030 Filing of bylaws and amendments.**

Pursuant to Article IV(H) of the compact, copies of bylaws and amendments thereto shall be filed with the code reviser's office. [1969 ex.s. c 130 s 3.]

**RCW 17.34.040 Compact administrator.**

The compact administrator for this state shall be the director of agriculture. The duties of the compact administrator shall be deemed a regular part of his or her office. [2011 c 336 s 471; 1969 ex.s. c 130 s 4.]

**RCW 17.34.050 Requests or applications for assistance from insurance fund.**

Within the meaning of Article VI(B) or VIII(A), a request or application for assistance from the insurance fund may be made by the director of agriculture whenever in his or her judgment the conditions qualifying this state for such assistance exist and it would be in the best interest of this state to make such request. [2011 c 336 s 472; 1969 ex.s. c 130 s 5.]

**RCW 17.34.060 Agency incurring expenses to be credited with payments to this state.**

The department, agency, or officer expending or becoming liable for an expenditure on account of a control or eradication program undertaken or intensified pursuant to the compact shall have credited to his or her account in the state treasury the

amount or amounts of any payments made to this state to defray the cost of such program, or any part thereof, or as reimbursement thereof. [2011 c 336 s 473; 1969 ex.s. c 130 s 6.]

**RCW 17.34.070 "Executive head" defined.** As used in the compact, with reference to this state, the term "executive head" shall mean the director of agriculture. [1969 ex.s. c 130 s 7.]