

LEGISLATIVE BILLS Tracked in 2019

Water Quality Program

April 11, 2019

Legislative Bill #	Short Description of Bill	WQP's Position
ESHB 1747	<p>Risk-based water standards for nonpotable water: Directs Department of Health to develop new risk-based water quality standards for on-site treatment and reuse of nonpotable alternative water sources.</p>	<p>Ecology is neutral on the bill, but supports the concept of advancing nonpotable reuse consistent with Ecology's recent reclaimed water rule (173-219 WAC) and other existing water quality regulations. Ecology is ready to coordinate and consult with Department of Health as needed to support development of nonpotable reuse system standards and ensure consistency with existing water quality regulations.</p>
HB 2113	<p>Spokane River Toxics Task Force: This bill codifies the Spokane river regional toxics task force; adding a new section to chapter 90.48 RCW; and providing an expiration date of July 1, 2029.</p>	<p>Ecology is supportive of the task force's work in the Spokane River. We have concerns with the bill as written because the language in the bill contradicts the MOA that formed the SRRTTF, of which Ecology is a signatory; the bill would change the task force's membership and decision-making procedures (removing DOH and Spokane Regional Health District)</p>
SB 5145	<p>Hydraulic fracturing: Prohibits the use of hydraulic fracturing in the exploration for and production of oil and natural gas.</p>	<p>Ecology is neutral on the bill. The prohibition of this activity will have a positive impact on the environment.</p>
ESSB 5322	<p>Clean Water Act/discharges- suction dredges: This substitute senate bill prohibits the use of suction dredge mining in waters of the in state which have been designated as critical habitat, for salmonids.</p>	<p>Ecology supports the bill. Ecology stands ready to implement and enforce this bill should it be adopted.</p>
ESSB 5330	<p>Small forestland owners: The bill authorizes the UW's School of Environmental and Forestry Sciences to conduct a trends analysis to determine whether the forest practices rules established for small forest landowners have been effective in helping to prevent small forest landowners from converting their lands to non-forest uses, and to look for ways that will help keep them on the lands. Findings and recommendations to the appropriate legislative committees no later than November 1st, 2020.</p>	<p>Ecology supports the intent of this bill to evaluate how the forest practices rules and programs are affecting the decision by small forest landowners on whether or not to keep their lands in forest. Ecology continues to actively support efforts to look for simpler harvest alternatives for small landowners that also protect water quality and aquatic life.</p>

SB 5505	<p>Local stormwater charges paid by the department of transportation: This bill amends RCW 90.03.525 to clarify that the charges paid to local governments must be used solely for stormwater controls to reduce state highway runoff impacts, and requires coordination between the utility and the DOT to develop a plan for the expenditure of the charges for that calendar year. In addition, the utility must provide progress report on the use of charges assessed for the prior year, and the DOT may not pay charges until the utility submits the plan and report to the DOT.</p>	<p>Ecology is neutral on the bill, as we are not directly impacted by it. We note that the bill may creates new burdens for local governments which may reduce their ability to charge DOT so they can address stormwater runoff from state highways which drains into local stormwater infrastructure and waterways.</p>
SSB 5597	<p>Aerial herbicide application: This bill would create a workgroup to look at aerial application of herbicides on forestlands. The workgroup shall provide a report that includes findings, recommendations, and draft legislation to the governor and legislature by November 10th, 2019.</p>	<p>Ecology is neutral on the bill. This bill proposes to generate recommendations that managers of working forests can use to develop or enhance their IPM approach. Using an IPM approach for managing working forests is in alignment with how we encourage other stakeholders managing noxious weeds, native nuisance plants, and invasive animals to approach their management activities</p>
2SSB 5947	<p>Sustainable farms and fields grant program: The bill would direct the Department of Agriculture to provide financial assistance to farmers and ranchers who adopt practices that reduce fossil fuel inputs in their operations and increase the quantity of carbon stored on their land.</p>	<p>Ecology is neutral on the bill. The program described in the bill could result in GHG reductions in a sector that Ecology usually does not regulate.</p>