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HOUSE BILL 3345

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representative Linville

Read first time 02/05/08. Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Environmental Health.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing inspection intervals for on-site  
2 sewage disposal systems; adding new sections to chapter 70.118 RCW;  
3 adding new sections to chapter 70.118A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.118 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 An on-site sewage disposal system owner is responsible for  
8 operating, monitoring, and maintaining the owner's on-site sewage  
9 disposal system to minimize the risk of failure. To help accomplish  
10 this purpose, the owner is responsible for inspecting their on-site  
11 sewage disposal system and ensuring a complete evaluation of the  
12 on-site sewage disposal system components and property as necessary to  
13 determine functionality, maintenance needs, and compliance with  
14 regulations and any permits. The on-site sewage disposal system must  
15 be inspected:

16 (1)(a) At least once every three years for all on-site sewage  
17 disposal systems consisting solely of a septic tank and gravity  
18 subsurface soil absorption system, except:

1 (b) Inspection frequency for on-site sewage disposal systems  
2 included under (a) of this subsection may be increased after each  
3 inspection by adding one year to the length of time between  
4 inspections, provided the on-site sewage disposal system is found to be  
5 functioning properly, for up to a maximum of seven years between  
6 inspections; and

7 (2)(a) Annually for all on-site sewage disposal systems that do not  
8 consist solely of a septic tank and gravity subsurface soil absorption  
9 system, except:

10 (b) Inspection frequency for on-site sewage disposal systems  
11 included under (a) of this subsection may be increased after each  
12 inspection by adding six months to the length of time between  
13 inspections, provided the on-site sewage disposal system is found to be  
14 functioning properly and the on-site sewage disposal system is designed  
15 to accommodate an increased inspection interval, for up to a maximum of  
16 three years between inspections.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.118 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

19 If during an inspection conducted under section 1 of this act an  
20 on-site sewage disposal system is found to be functioning improperly,  
21 the following inspection frequency applies, beginning after the on-site  
22 sewage disposal system's function is corrected:

23 (1) For all on-site sewage disposal systems consisting solely of a  
24 septic tank and gravity subsurface soil absorption system, the maximum  
25 time allowed until the next inspection is one year less than the length  
26 of time since the last inspection. Inspections may not be required  
27 more frequently than annually except to resolve a performance problem.

28 (2) For all on-site sewage disposal systems that do not consist  
29 solely of a septic tank and gravity subsurface soil absorption system,  
30 the maximum time allowed until the next inspection is six months less  
31 than the length of time since the last inspection. Inspections may not  
32 be required more frequently than every six months except to resolve a  
33 performance problem.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.118 RCW  
35 to read as follows:

36 (1) If an on-site sewage disposal system consisting solely of a

1 septic tank and gravity subsurface soil absorption system is not  
2 inspected at least once within the three-year period from June 30,  
3 2009, to June 30, 2012, then, after an inspection does take place, the  
4 inspection frequency must start at every three years provided the  
5 on-site sewage disposal system is found to be functioning properly. If  
6 the on-site sewage disposal system is found to be functioning  
7 improperly, the inspection frequency must start at one year after the  
8 on-site sewage disposal system's function is corrected.

9 (2) If an on-site sewage disposal system that does not consist  
10 solely of a septic tank and gravity subsurface soil absorption system  
11 is not inspected at least once within the one-year period from June 30,  
12 2009, to June 30, 2010, then, after an inspection does take place, the  
13 inspection frequency must start at one year provided the on-site sewage  
14 disposal system is found to be functioning properly. If the on-site  
15 sewage disposal system is found to be functioning improperly, the  
16 inspection frequency must start at six months after the on-site sewage  
17 disposal system's function is corrected.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of health must revise WAC  
19 246-272A-0270 in accordance with the criteria established in sections  
20 1 through 3 of this act.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 70.118A  
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 An on-site sewage disposal system owner is responsible for  
24 operating, monitoring, and maintaining the owner's on-site sewage  
25 disposal system to minimize the risk of failure. To help accomplish  
26 this purpose, the owner is responsible for inspecting their on-site  
27 sewage disposal system and ensuring a complete evaluation of the  
28 on-site sewage disposal system components and property as necessary to  
29 determine functionality, maintenance needs, and compliance with  
30 regulations and any permits. The on-site sewage disposal system must  
31 be inspected:

32 (1)(a) At least once every three years for all on-site sewage  
33 disposal systems consisting solely of a septic tank and gravity  
34 subsurface soil absorption system, except:

35 (b) Inspection frequency for on-site sewage disposal systems  
36 included under (a) of this subsection may be increased after each

1 inspection by adding one year to the length of time between  
2 inspections, provided the on-site sewage disposal system is found to be  
3 functioning properly, for up to a maximum of seven years between  
4 inspections; and

5 (2)(a) Annually for all on-site sewage disposal systems that do not  
6 consist solely of a septic tank and gravity subsurface soil absorption  
7 system, except:

8 (b) Inspection frequency for on-site sewage disposal systems  
9 included under (a) of this subsection may be increased after each  
10 inspection by adding six months to the length of time between  
11 inspections, provided the on-site sewage disposal system is found to be  
12 functioning properly and the on-site sewage disposal system is designed  
13 to accommodate an increased inspection interval, for up to a maximum of  
14 three years between inspections.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 70.118A  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 If during an inspection conducted under section 5 of this act an  
18 on-site sewage disposal system is found to be functioning improperly,  
19 the following inspection frequency applies, beginning after the on-site  
20 sewage disposal system's function is corrected:

21 (1) For all on-site sewage disposal systems consisting solely of a  
22 septic tank and gravity subsurface soil absorption system, the maximum  
23 time allowed until the next inspection is one year less than the length  
24 of time since the last inspection. Inspections may not be required  
25 more frequently than annually except to resolve a performance problem.

26 (2) For all on-site sewage disposal systems that do not consist  
27 solely of a septic tank and gravity subsurface soil absorption system,  
28 the maximum time allowed until the next inspection is six months less  
29 than the length of time since the last inspection. Inspections may not  
30 be required more frequently than every six months except to resolve a  
31 performance problem.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 70.118A  
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 (1) If an on-site sewage disposal system consisting solely of a  
35 septic tank and gravity subsurface soil absorption system is not  
36 inspected at least once within the three-year period from June 30,

1 2009, to June 30, 2012, then, after an inspection does take place, the  
2 inspection frequency must start at every three years provided the  
3 on-site sewage disposal system is found to be functioning properly. If  
4 the on-site sewage disposal system is found to be functioning  
5 improperly, the inspection frequency must start at one year after the  
6 on-site sewage disposal system's function is corrected.

7 (2) If an on-site sewage disposal system that does not consist  
8 solely of a septic tank and gravity subsurface soil absorption system  
9 is not inspected at least once within the one-year period from June 30,  
10 2009, to June 30, 2010, then, after an inspection does take place, the  
11 inspection frequency must start at one year provided the on-site sewage  
12 disposal system is found to be functioning properly. If the on-site  
13 sewage disposal system is found to be functioning improperly, the  
14 inspection frequency must start at six months after the on-site sewage  
15 disposal system's function is corrected.

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