
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6882

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation (originally sponsored by Senators Swecker and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to flood mitigation in the Chehalis basin; creating
2 new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that recent storm
5 events, including flooding and high winds, have affected significant
6 areas of western Washington. In particular, the people, resources, and
7 economy of the Chehalis basin now face great challenges as a result of
8 the recent storm.

9 The Chehalis basin is the second largest drainage in the state of
10 Washington, draining over two thousand square miles. Approximately
11 eighty-five percent of this area is forest land, with approximately ten
12 percent used for agriculture. The four major population centers of the
13 Chehalis basin are Chehalis, Centralia, Aberdeen, and Hoquiam.

14 As private individuals and organizations and federal, state, and
15 local governments address storm damages and mitigation at the regional
16 level, the legislature intends to help facilitate a collaborative
17 process to promote flood control and mitigation in the Chehalis basin.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Chehalis basin partnership is the
2 watershed planning unit under chapter 90.82 RCW for water resource
3 inventory areas twenty-two and twenty-three, as established in chapter
4 173-500 WAC as it exists on the effective date of this section.

5 (2) The Chehalis basin partnership may conduct preliminary work for
6 and initiate development of a comprehensive flood control management
7 plan for the Chehalis basin that meets the requirements of RCW
8 86.12.200 and 86.26.105.

9 (3) If the Chehalis basin partnership acts pursuant to this
10 section, the partnership must:

11 (a) Seek to maintain its current membership balance, which reflects
12 a broad spectrum of local public and private interests;

13 (b) Work collaboratively and consider a wide array of options to
14 avoid and minimize impacts from future flood events; and

15 (c) Keep in its consideration other recent and ongoing flood damage
16 and mitigation processes and efforts.

17 (4) If the Chehalis basin partnership acts pursuant to this
18 section, the department of ecology must provide technical and funding
19 assistance to the partnership under chapter 86.26 RCW.

20 (5) If the Chehalis basin partnership acts pursuant to this
21 section, it must provide brief progress summaries to the appropriate
22 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2008, and December 1,
23 2009, respectively. The Chehalis basin partnership may also recommend
24 to the legislature additional authorities necessary to carry out its
25 work, including an extension of the expiration date in section 4 of
26 this act.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If, by December 31, 2008, Grays Harbor,
28 Lewis, and Thurston counties create a joint flood control district or
29 exercise equivalent flood control authority under Title 86 RCW covering
30 a substantial portion of the Chehalis basin:

31 (1) The Chehalis basin partnership may not act, or must cease
32 acting, under section 2 of this act;

33 (2) The department of ecology must redirect subsequent technical or
34 funding assistance provided under section 2 of this act to the joint
35 flood control district or equivalent authority; and

36 (3) The joint flood control district or equivalent authority

1 assumes all authority and associated responsibility provided to the
2 Chehalis basin partnership under section 2 of this act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires July 1, 2010.

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