

SB 116
Relating to aquatic invasive species

Senate Bill 116 creates the Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force. Ballast water discharged from shipping vessels can be a primary pathway for the introduction of aquatic invasive species into waters of the state. Introduction of non-indigenous aquatic species can have serious negative impacts on watershed health. The Task Force will study and make recommendations for combating the introduction of aquatic invasive species from ballast water.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends SB 116 be reported out do pass.

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Bailey
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Thomsen

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote:

House

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Paul Siebert, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 14, 2013

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force (Task Force). Authorizes Director of Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to appoint members who represent state and federal governments; State of Washington; and maritime, environmental and academic interests. Directs Senate President and House Speaker to each appoint one member to serve in advisory capacity. Authorizes DEQ to provide staff support or coordination assistance to Task Force. Directs Task Force to submit report including recommendations for legislation to interim legislative committee related to natural resources no later than June 1, 2014. Sunsets Task Force on January 2, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Third time this Task Force is being created
- Staffing

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The 2007 Legislature passed Senate Bill 643 which created the Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force (Task Force) and established a sunset date in January, 2009. The Task Force was recreated by the Legislature in 2009 with the passage of House Bill 2714 which sunset on January 2, 2012. Senate Bill 116-A recreates the Task Force for a third time for the purpose of studying and making recommendations on combating the introduction of aquatic nonindigenous species associated with shipping-related transport; evaluating funding mechanisms to support and maintain prevention efforts and ballast water program activities; and shipping industry compliance with the ballast water statute. The Task Force will sunset again on January 2, 2019.