

SB 262

Relating to oil spill contingency funding

SB 262 increases fees for the oil spill prevention program and expands uses of these monies to include planning and preparedness activities. The oil spill prevention fee was originally implemented in 1993. Program staffing was reduced in 1997. The fees were increased in 2001 and 2007. Current fees are not sufficient to fund the existing program.

SB 262 raises oil spill program revenues by approximately \$276,000 in 2015-17 and \$368,000 per biennium thereafter. This increased level of funding will allow restoration of 0.90 FTE not affordable with current fees and an increase of one full time position to work on oil spill planning and preparedness. The fee increase and positions are assumed in the Co-Chair budget for the Department of Environmental Quality.

Your Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends SB 262 be reported out do pass.