

and that there is great concern throughout the state relating to its utilization, protection, preservation, and restoration. The legislature, therefore, declares that portion of the Columbia River Gorge beginning at the western-most boundary of the Columbia River Gorge as described in RCW 43.97.090 and extending easterly to include all of Section 17 and the west halves of Sections 9 and 4 in Township 2 North, Range 13 East, to be an area of state-wide significance, wherein preference shall be given to uses which:

- (1) Recognize and protect the state-wide interest.
- (2) Result in long term rather than short term benefit.
- (3) Protect the resources and ecology of the Gorge.
- (4) Increase public access to publicly owned areas.
- (5) Increase recreational opportunities for the public.
- (6) Explore economic utilization.

The legislature further declares that all agencies of state and local government, shall, in their planning (~~and~~), management, and issuance of permits and variances, give full consideration to the environmental protection and economic utilization of the Columbia River Gorge, and the best interests of the state and people in general, in conformity with the plan to be prepared pursuant to RCW 43.97.030.

Passed the Senate April 26, 1977.

Passed the House May 23, 1977.

Approved by the Governor June 1, 1977.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State June 1, 1977.

CHAPTER 133

[Substitute Senate Bill No. 2638]

ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL—ALTERNATIVE METHODS

AN ACT Relating to on-site sewage disposal systems; and creating a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. The legislature finds that over one million, two hundred thousand persons in the state are not served by sanitary sewers and that they must rely on septic tank systems. The failure of large numbers of such systems has resulted in significant health hazards, loss of property values, and water quality degradation. The legislature further finds that failure of such systems could be reduced by utilization of nonwater-carried sewage disposal systems, or other alternative methods of effluent disposal, as a correctional measure. Waste water volume diminution and disposal of most of the high bacterial waste through composting or other alternative methods of effluent disposal would result in restorative improvement or correction of existing substandard systems.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, the terms defined in this section shall have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) "Nonwater-carried sewage disposal devices" means any device that stores and treats nonwater-carried human urine and feces.

(2) "Alternative methods of effluent disposal" means systems approved by the department of social and health services, including at least, mound systems, alternating drain fields, anaerobic filters, evapotranspiration systems, and aerobic systems.

(3) "Failure" means: (a) Effluent has been discharged on the surface of the ground prior to approved treatment; or (b) effluent has percolated to the surface of the ground; or (c) effluent has contaminated or threatens to contaminate a ground water supply.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Local boards of health shall identify failing septic tank drainfield systems in the normal manner and will use reasonable effort to determine new failures. Discretionary judgment will be made in implementing corrections by specifying nonwater-carried sewage disposal devices or other alternative methods of treatment and effluent disposal as a measure of ameliorating existing substandard conditions. Local regulations shall be consistent with the intent and purposes stated herein.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. With the advice of the secretary of the department of social and health services, local boards of health are hereby authorized to waive applicable sections of local plumbing and/or building codes that might prohibit the use of an alternative method for correcting a failure.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. Sections 2 through 4 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

Passed the Senate May 23, 1977.

Passed the House May 20, 1977.

Approved by the Governor June 1, 1977.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State June 1, 1977.

CHAPTER 134

[Senate Bill No. 2675]

MERCHANDISE—UNLAWFUL TAKING—DAMAGES—PENALTIES

AN ACT Relating to special rights of action; amending section 1, chapter 59, Laws of 1975 1st ex. sess. and RCW 4.24.230; and prescribing penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Section 1. Section 1, chapter 59, Laws of 1975 1st ex. sess. and RCW 4.24.230 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) An adult or emancipated minor who takes possession of any goods, wares or merchandise displayed or offered for sale by any wholesale or retail store or other mercantile establishment without the consent of the owner or seller, and with the intention of converting such goods, wares or merchandise to his own use without having paid the purchase price thereof shall be liable in addition to actual damages, for a penalty to the owner or seller in the amount of the retail value thereof not to exceed one thousand dollars, plus ~~((costs of preparing and presenting the action))~~ an additional penalty of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than two hundred dollars.

(2) The parent or legal guardian having the custody of an unemancipated minor who takes possession of any goods, wares or merchandise displayed or offered