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HOUSE BILL 1615

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representative Caldier

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing consistency in the classifications  
2 of water systems; amending RCW 70A.125.010 and 70A.125.130; and  
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70A.125.010 and 2020 c 20 s 1353 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following  
8 definitions apply throughout this chapter:

9 (1) "Area-wide waivers" means a waiver granted by the department  
10 as a result of a geographically based testing program meeting  
11 required provisions of the federal safe drinking water act.

12 (2) "Department" means the department of health.

13 (3) "Federal safe drinking water act" means the federal safe  
14 drinking water act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 300f et seq., as now in effect or  
15 hereafter amended.

16 (4) (a) "Group A public water system" means a public water system  
17 with ~~((fifteen))~~ 15 or more service connections, regardless of the  
18 number of people; or a system serving an average of ~~((twenty-five))~~  
19 25 or more people per day for ~~((sixty))~~ 60 or more days within a  
20 calendar year, regardless of the number of service connections; or a

1 system serving (~~one thousand~~) 1,000 or more people for two or more  
2 consecutive days.

3 (b) A default number of people served per connection may not be  
4 used to calculate the average number of people served for purposes of  
5 (a) of this subsection, where such default number would cause a water  
6 system that would otherwise be classified as a group B water system  
7 to be classified as a group A water system.

8 (5) "Group B public water system" means a public water system  
9 that does not meet the definition of a group A public water system.

10 (6) "Local board of health" means the city, town, county, or  
11 district board of health.

12 (7) "Local health jurisdiction" means an entity created under  
13 chapter 70.05, 70.08, or 70.46 RCW, which provides public health  
14 services to persons within the area.

15 (8) "Local health officer" means the legally qualified physician  
16 who has been appointed as the health officer for the city, town,  
17 county, or district public health department.

18 (9) "Order" means a written direction to comply with a provision  
19 of the regulations adopted under RCW 43.20.050(2) (a) and (b) or  
20 70A.120.050 or to take an action or a series of actions to comply  
21 with the regulations.

22 (10) "Person" includes, but is not limited to, natural persons,  
23 municipal corporations, governmental agencies, firms, companies,  
24 mutual or cooperative associations, institutions, and partnerships.  
25 It also means the authorized agents of any such entities.

26 (11) "Public health emergency" means a declaration by an  
27 authorized health official of a situation in which either illness, or  
28 exposure known to cause illness, is occurring or is imminent.

29 (12) "Public water system" means any system, excluding a system  
30 serving only one single-family residence and a system with four or  
31 fewer connections all of which serve residences on the same farm,  
32 providing water for human consumption through pipes or other  
33 constructed conveyances, including any collection, treatment,  
34 storage, or distribution facilities under control of the purveyor and  
35 used primarily in connection with the system; and collection or  
36 pretreatment storage facilities not under control of the purveyor but  
37 primarily used in connection with the system, including:

38 (a) Any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution  
39 facilities under control of the purveyor and used primarily in  
40 connection with such system; and

1 (b) Any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under  
2 control of the purveyor which are primarily used in connection with  
3 such system.

4 (13) "Purveyor" means any agency or subdivision of the state or  
5 any municipal corporation, firm, company, mutual or cooperative  
6 association, institution, partnership, or person or any other entity,  
7 that owns or operates a public water system. It also means the  
8 authorized agents of any such entities.

9 (14) "Regulations" means rules adopted to carry out the purposes  
10 of this chapter.

11 (15) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health.

12 (16) "State board of health" is the board created by RCW  
13 43.20.030.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70A.125.130 and 2009 c 495 s 6 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (1) Local governments may establish separate operating permit  
17 requirements for public water systems provided the operating permit  
18 requirements have been approved by the department. The department  
19 shall not approve local operating permit requirements unless the  
20 local system will result in an increased level of service to the  
21 public water system. There shall not be duplicate operating permit  
22 requirements imposed by local governments and the department.

23 (2) (~~Local~~) Except as provided in RCW 70A.125.010(4)(b), local  
24 governments may establish requirements for group B public water  
25 systems in addition to those established by rule by the state board  
26 of health pursuant to RCW 43.20.050(2) or other rules adopted by the  
27 department, provided that the requirements are at least as stringent  
28 as the state requirements.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
30 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
31 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
32 effect immediately.

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