
SENATE BILL 5878

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senator Fortunato

Prefiled 12/19/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring litter tax funds are used for litter
2 pick up; amending RCW 70A.200.140; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70A.200.140 and 2022 c 297 s 963 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) There is hereby created an account within the state treasury
7 to be known as the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control
8 account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.
9 Expenditures from the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control
10 account shall be used as follows:

11 (a) Forty percent to the department of ecology, primarily for use
12 by the departments of ecology, natural resources, ~~((revenue,))~~
13 transportation, and corrections, and the parks and recreation
14 commission, for litter collection programs under RCW 70A.200.170. The
15 amount to the department of ecology shall also be used for a central
16 coordination function for litter control efforts statewide; to
17 support employment of youth in litter cleanup as intended in RCW
18 70A.200.020, and for litter pick up using other authorized agencies;
19 and for statewide public awareness programs under RCW 70A.200.150(7).
20 The amount to the department shall also be used to defray the costs
21 of administering the funding, coordination, and oversight of local

1 government programs for waste reduction, litter control, recycling,
2 and composting so that local governments can apply (~~one hundred~~)
3 100 percent of their funding to achieving program goals (~~. The amount~~
4 ~~to the department of revenue shall be used to enforce compliance with~~
5 ~~the litter tax imposed in chapter 82.19 RCW~~);

6 (b) (i) Twenty percent to the department for local government
7 funding programs for waste reduction, litter control, recycling
8 activities, and composting activities by cities and counties under
9 RCW 70A.200.190, to be administered by the department of ecology;

10 (ii) any unspent funds under (b) (i) of this subsection may be used to
11 create and pay for a matching fund competitive grant program to be
12 used by local governments for the development and implementation of
13 contamination reduction and outreach plans for inclusion in
14 comprehensive solid waste management plans or by local governments
15 and nonprofit organizations for local or statewide education programs
16 designed to help the public with litter control, waste reduction,
17 recycling, and composting of primarily the products taxed under
18 chapter 82.19 RCW. Recipients under this subsection include programs
19 to reduce wasted food and food waste that are designed to achieve the
20 goals established in RCW 70A.205.715(1) and that are consistent with
21 the plan developed in RCW 70A.205.715(3). Grants must adhere to the
22 following requirements: (A) No grant may exceed (~~sixty thousand~~
23 ~~dollars~~) \$60,000; (B) grant recipients shall match the grant funding
24 allocated by the department by an amount equal to (~~twenty-five~~) 25
25 percent of eligible expenses. A local government's share of these
26 costs may be met by cash or contributed services; (C) the obligation
27 of the department to make grant payments is contingent upon the
28 availability of the amount of money appropriated for this subsection
29 (1) (b); and (D) grants are managed under the guidelines for existing
30 grant programs; and

31 (c) Forty percent to the department of ecology to: (i) Implement
32 activities under RCW 70A.200.150 for waste reduction, recycling, and
33 composting efforts; (ii) provide technical assistance to local
34 governments and commercial businesses to increase recycling markets
35 and recycling and composting programs primarily for the products
36 taxed under chapter 82.19 RCW designed to educate citizens about
37 waste reduction, litter control, and recyclable and compostable
38 products and programs; (iii) increase access to waste reduction,
39 composting, and recycling programs, particularly for food packaging
40 and plastic bags and appropriate composting techniques; and (iv) for

1 programs to reduce wasted food and food waste that are designed to
2 achieve the goals established in RCW 70A.205.715(1) and that are
3 consistent with the plan developed in RCW 70A.205.715(3).

4 (2) All taxes imposed in RCW 82.19.010 and fines and bail
5 forfeitures collected or received pursuant to this chapter shall be
6 deposited in the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control
7 account and used for the programs under subsection (1) of this
8 section.

9 (3) Not less than five percent and no more than (~~ten~~) 10
10 percent of the amount appropriated into the waste reduction,
11 recycling, and litter control account every biennium shall be
12 reserved for capital needs, including the purchase of vehicles for
13 transporting crews and for collecting litter and solid waste. Capital
14 funds shall be distributed among state agencies and local governments
15 according to the same criteria provided in RCW 70A.200.170 for the
16 remainder of the funds, so that the most effective waste reduction,
17 litter control, recycling, and composting programs receive the most
18 funding. The intent of this subsection is to provide funds for the
19 purchase of equipment that will enable the department to account for
20 the greatest return on investment in terms of reaching a zero litter
21 goal.

22 (4) Funds in the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control
23 account, collected under chapter 82.19 RCW, must be prioritized for
24 the products identified under RCW 82.19.020 solely for the purposes
25 of recycling, composting, and litter collection, reduction, and
26 control programs.

27 (5) During the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, Washington State
28 University may use funds in the waste reduction, recycling, and
29 litter control account, collected under chapter 82.19 RCW, to conduct
30 an organic waste study.

31 (6) During the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, and as an exception to
32 the distribution of expenditures otherwise required in this section,
33 the department of ecology may use funds in the waste reduction,
34 recycling, and litter control account to continue a series of food
35 waste reduction campaigns, to continue to invest in litter prevention
36 campaigns, to conduct a recycling study, and to increase litter
37 control on state highways.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of this act expires June 30,
2 2029.

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