

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6305

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As Passed Senate, February 6, 1996

**Title:** An act relating to off-site mitigation proposals for hydraulic projects.

**Brief Description:** Authorizing approval of off-site mitigation proposals for hydraulic projects.

**Sponsors:** Senator Drew.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources: 1/16/96, 1/19/96 [DP].  
Passed Senate, 2/6/96, 47-0.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Drew, Chair; Spanel, Vice Chair; A. Anderson, Morton, Oke, Owen, Snyder, Strannigan and Swecker.

**Staff:** Ross Antipa (786-7413)

**Background:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife administers hydraulic permits. The department has a policy of requiring on-site mitigation for hydraulic project effects upon fish life.

In some cases, off-site mitigation may provide more benefits to the fish resource than on-site mitigation.

**Summary of Bill:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife may approve off-site mitigation for hydraulic permits. If the department does not approve an off-site mitigation proposal, the applicant may submit the proposal to the Hydraulic Project Appeals Board for approval.

The Hydraulic Appeals Board may approve off-site mitigation proposals.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** In some cases, off-site mitigation may be more beneficial to fish resources than on-site mitigation.

**Testimony Against:** The Hydraulic Permit Appeals Board will infrequently rule against the initial decision by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**Testified:** Ed Manary, Department of Fisheries; Eric Johnson, WA Public Ports Assn.