
BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: S-5710.1/24

ATTY/TYPIST: MFW:eab

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Concerning false alarms from the advanced dam failure warning system for the dam on the South Fork Tolt river.

1 AN ACT Relating to false alarms from the advanced dam failure
2 warning system for the dam on the South Fork Tolt river; adding a new
3 section to chapter 35.92 RCW; creating a new section; and prescribing
4 penalties.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The city of Seattle owns and operates
7 the Tolt reservoir and dams, located 16 miles upstream from the city
8 of Carnation on the South Fork Tolt river.

9 (2) Seattle public utilities manages and operates the water
10 system serving Seattle and wholesale customers in nearby cities and
11 water districts. The water supply system consists of surface water
12 reservoirs on the Cedar river and the South Fork Tolt river and two
13 wellfields providing groundwater.

14 (3) In the event of a dam failure on the South Fork Tolt river,
15 water from the reservoir may inundate the city of Carnation. To alert
16 residents of such an event, there is an advanced dam failure warning
17 system.

18 (4) The legislature finds that there is a need to both protect
19 residents from the catastrophic event of a dam breaking, and also not
20 harm them through repeated false alarms from the advanced dam failure

1 warning system causing trauma and anxiety to the residents of the
2 city of Carnation.

3 (5) It is the intent of the legislature to reduce and discourage
4 false alarms from the advanced dam failure warning system by
5 establishing financial penalties when a false alarm occurs.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35.92
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) In the event of a false alarm from the advanced dam failure
9 warning system for the damn on the South Fork Tolt river operated by
10 the city of Seattle and that provides water for the water supply
11 system managed by Seattle public utilities, the city of Seattle and
12 Seattle public utilities must pay a penalty of \$1,000,000 to the city
13 of Carnation for each false alarm that occurs from the advanced dam
14 failure warning system.

15 (2) The city of Carnation must use funds from the penalties
16 described in subsection (1) of this section for infrastructure
17 improvements for emergency evacuations, including road improvements,
18 signage, community preparedness, emergency management planning, as
19 well as mental health counseling for residents impacted by the false
20 alarms from the advanced dam failure warning system.

21 (3) For the purposes of this section, "advanced dam failure
22 warning system" means the system that includes monitoring
23 instruments, cameras, and sirens designed to notify residents in and
24 around the city of Carnation in the event of a dam failure.

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