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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sHB 7085

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING A REVIEW OF THE RELEASE-BASED CLEANUP PROGRAM AND RELATED REGULATIONS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the existing working group established to advise the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner on developing release-based cleanup regulations (RBCRs; see BACKGROUND) to continue meeting after the regulations are adopted.

Under the bill, once the RBCRs are adopted, the working group must meet at least quarterly until February 1, 2030, to do the following:

1. evaluate the release-based cleanup program's implementation and efficacy and give related advice and feedback to the DEEP commissioner and
2. review and make recommendations on the laws and regulations related to release-based remediation of hazardous waste.

The bill allows the working group to seek public comment and stakeholder input while conducting its review and developing its recommendations.

Lastly, the bill requires the DEEP commissioner to report on the working group's findings and recommendations twice, first by February 1, 2028, and then by February 1, 2030, to the Commerce and Environment committees. (By law, the commissioner is a member of the working group.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****RBCRs***

Proposed RBCRs developed by the DEEP commissioner, with advice and feedback from a working group of agency officials, legislative leaders, and stakeholder members, are currently pending. Under existing law, adopting these regulations will transition the state from its transfer-based approach to property remediation (the Transfer Act) to a release-based approach. The Regulations Review Committee rejected them without prejudice on March 25, 2025. Once approved, the regulations are scheduled to take effect on March 1, 2026.

***Related Bill***

SB 1404 (File 488), favorably reported by the Commerce Committee, makes changes related to the state's transition from the Transfer Act to a release-based remediation approach, including making the new approach effective when the RBCRs take effect, rather than on their adoption date, and creating a new voluntary parcel-wide remediation program.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea    20    Nay   0    (03/20/2025)