

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SB 5138

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**As Reported By House Committee On:**  
Natural Resources

**Title:** An act relating to offenses committed in state parks or parkways.

**Brief Description:** Changing provisions relating to offenses committed in state parks or parkways.

**Sponsors:** Senators Oke, Snyder, Swecker and Winsley; by request of Parks and Recreation Commission.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Natural Resources: 3/21/97, 4/3/97 [DP].

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Buck, Chairman; Sump, Vice Chairman; Thompson, Vice Chairman; Regala, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander; Anderson; Hatfield; Pennington and Sheldon.

**Minority Report:** Without recommendation. Signed by 1 member: Representative Chandler.

**Staff:** Rick Anderson (786-7114).

**Background:** It is unlawful to cut, break, injure, destroy, or take vegetation or natural objects within a state park. The Parks and Recreation Commission does not have authority to prescribe rules to grant exceptions to this law. Berry-picking, environmental education classes, and scientific studies are examples of activities that violate this law.

**Summary of Bill:** The commission is authorized to adopt rules allowing exemptions to the law that prohibits a cut, break, or take of vegetation or natural objects in state parks.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

**Testimony For:** This is a common sense bill. It literally allows people to enjoy the fruits of our state parks.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Senator Bob Oke, prime sponsor; and Rex Derr, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (pro).