
SENATE BILL 5704

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Benton, Carrell, Stevens, Schoesler, Morton, Swecker and Roach

Read first time 01/29/2007. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a pilot project to examine the
2 impacts of small scale mineral prospecting on coastal areas; creating
3 a new section; providing an expiration date; and declaring an
4 emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Beginning July 1, 2007, the state parks
7 and recreation commission and the department of fish and wildlife shall
8 establish a pilot program to evaluate the impacts of small scale
9 mineral prospecting on ocean beaches. The pilot program must be
10 conducted from July 1, 2007, through July 1, 2009.

11 (2) The state parks and recreation commission, in consultation with
12 the department of fish and wildlife, shall establish at least six
13 demonstration areas in appropriate beach areas in the seashore
14 conservation area, which was established for recreational use and
15 enjoyment of the public by RCW 79A.05.605. The demonstration areas
16 must be located between the southern border of Cape Disappointment
17 state park and the southern border of the Quinault Indian reservation,
18 and must allow small scale mineral prospecting for purposes of the
19 pilot program. Each demonstration area must be:

1 (a) Located in separate areas along the coast that are not
2 geographically close together;

3 (b) Located in an area suitable for small scale prospecting as
4 identified by persons interested in small scale mining and prospecting;
5 and

6 (c) Located in areas having minimal potential for damage to the
7 beach ecology and the environment.

8 (3) The department of fish and wildlife shall use existing
9 authority under chapter 77.55 RCW to issue hydraulic permits for small
10 scale prospecting within the demonstration areas established under
11 subsection (2) of this section.

12 (4) The department of fish and wildlife shall monitor the impacts
13 of the small scale prospecting activities on the beach ecology
14 including, but not limited to, habitat, birds, shellfish, and other
15 beach marine life.

16 (5) By October 1, 2009, the department of fish and wildlife shall
17 report its findings and recommendations regarding the impacts of small
18 scale prospecting on the beach ecology to the state parks and
19 recreation commission. The department shall consider public input
20 prior to finalizing their findings and recommendations.

21 (6) The state parks and recreation commission and the department of
22 fish and wildlife shall report their findings and recommendations on
23 the impacts of small scale prospecting on ocean beaches to the
24 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2009.

25 (7) This section expires December 1, 2009.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
27 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
28 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
29 immediately.

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