
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6053

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation
(originally sponsored by Senators Spanel, Jacobsen, Haugen, Hargrove,
Hatfield, Morton, Murray, Fairley and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying the structure of the department of fish
2 and wildlife; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) A legislative task force on the
5 structure of the department of fish and wildlife is established, with
6 members as provided in this section.

7 (i) The two largest caucuses of the senate shall each appoint one
8 member.

9 (ii) The two largest caucuses of the house of representatives shall
10 each appoint one member.

11 (iii) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
12 representatives jointly shall appoint nine members representing the
13 timber industry, the farming community, the environmental community,
14 the ranching community, the shellfish community, the sport fishing
15 community, the commercial fishing community, the hunting community, and
16 a citizen with no affiliation with any of these or related groups.

17 (iv) The governor shall appoint two members representing the
18 department of fish and wildlife as nonvoting members. The governor

1 shall also appoint one member to represent the governor's office as a
2 nonvoting member.

3 (b) The task force shall choose its chair from among its
4 legislative membership. The governor, or the governor's
5 representative, shall convene the initial meeting of the task force.

6 (2) The task force's review and recommendations shall include, but
7 not be limited to, the following:

8 (a) The effectiveness and accountability of the current fish and
9 wildlife commission model;

10 (b) Whether or not the fish and wildlife commission should retain
11 the power to hire and terminate the director;

12 (c) Whether or not the fish and wildlife commissioner appointment
13 process is effective and whether or not commissioners should be limited
14 to no more than two consecutive terms in office;

15 (d) Whether or not a citizens' ombuds function should be added to
16 the fish and wildlife commission model and if so, what would the role
17 of the ombuds be;

18 (e) Whether or not it is necessary to restructure the policy
19 authority of the fish and wildlife commission;

20 (f) Possible alternative models for fish and wildlife commission
21 structures;

22 (g) Whether or not the fish and wildlife commission's role should
23 be limited to that of an advisory body;

24 (h) Possible alternatives for appointment and confirmation of fish
25 and wildlife commission members;

26 (i) Whether or not the fish and wildlife commission's effectiveness
27 and accountability would be improved with the addition of either policy
28 staff or fiscal staff, or both;

29 (j) Whether or not the role of regulating recreational fishing and
30 hunting policy and season setting should be separated from commercial
31 activities, regulatory role/functions, land management, and other
32 departmental administrative functions;

33 (k) The effectiveness and responsiveness to the public, the office
34 of the governor, and the legislature of the fish and wildlife
35 commission and department of fish and wildlife management structure;
36 and

37 (l) Whether or not the existing geographic, consultation, and

1 expertise mandates for fish and wildlife commission appointments meet
2 the needs of the state or whether or not the fish and wildlife
3 commission should be restructured.

4 (3) Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the house
5 office of program research and senate committee services.

6 (4) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for
7 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
8 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are
9 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW
10 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

11 (5) The expenses of the task force shall be paid jointly by the
12 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
13 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
14 and the house executive rules committee, or their successor committees.

15 (6) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
16 the governor, the fish and wildlife commission, the director of fish
17 and wildlife, and the appropriate committees of the legislature by
18 December 1, 2007. Final recommendations shall be officially adopted
19 according to rules agreed to by a majority of the legislators or the
20 task force.

21 (7) This section expires June 30, 2008.

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