
SENATE BILL 6212

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Morton, Fraser, Rockefeller, Hatfield, Swecker, Parlette, Shin, Rasmussen, Spanel, and Kohl-Welles; by request of Department of Natural Resources

Read first time 01/14/08. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a work group to make
2 recommendations for improving recreation on state trust lands, aquatic
3 lands, and other state-owned lands managed by the department of natural
4 resources; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that recreational
7 opportunities are instrumental in promoting human health and well-being
8 and are part of the heritage of Washington state. State trust lands,
9 aquatic lands, and other state-owned lands managed by the department of
10 natural resources provide significant recreational opportunities, along
11 with other social, economic, and environmental benefits. Lands managed
12 by the department of natural resources provide, among other values:

- 13 (a) Renewable energy resources;
14 (b) Sustainable revenue for school construction, local governments,
15 and other state institutions;
16 (c) Recreational and educational opportunities;
17 (d) Habitat for fish and wildlife;
18 (e) Clean air and water; and

1 (f) Funding for restoration and public access to state-owned
2 aquatic lands.

3 (2) The legislature further finds that the state's population has
4 nearly doubled from three million four hundred thousand to six million
5 five hundred thousand since the multiple use concept was adopted under
6 chapter 79.10 RCW, and is projected to increase by another two million
7 two hundred thousand by 2030. Population growth has increased demand
8 for recreational access and presents current and future challenges that
9 must be addressed, such as: New forms of trail-based recreation that
10 compete with traditional uses; the rapid increase of motorized and
11 mechanized recreation; changes in ownership patterns of large land
12 holdings across the state; the incompatibility of certain human
13 activities with environmental protections for endangered species, clean
14 water, and habitat; and increased competition for funding.

15 (3) The legislature further finds that efforts by the department of
16 natural resources to consolidate state trust lands will provide more
17 opportunities for citizens to access larger blocks of state-owned
18 lands. Therefore, it is prudent to reexamine the policies for
19 recreational access on state-owned lands and establish a vision for the
20 future with recommended policy improvements that are:

- 21 (a) Environmentally responsible;
- 22 (b) Sustainably funded; and
- 23 (c) Compatible with trust land and state land management
24 obligations.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A work group is established to make
26 recommendations to improve recreation on state trust lands, aquatic
27 lands, and other state-owned lands managed by the department of natural
28 resources. The work group shall examine relevant existing laws and
29 rules and recommend policy changes and funding alternatives for
30 consideration by the legislature to ensure safe, sustainable, and
31 enjoyable recreational access.

32 (2) The work group is comprised of a balanced representation of
33 individuals with recreational interests and knowledge regarding
34 specific regions of the state. Members of the work group must be
35 appointed by the commissioner of public lands and must include, but not
36 be limited to, representatives from:

- 37 (a) Recreational associations and organizations;

- 1 (b) Corporate and community leaders;
2 (c) Major landowners;
3 (d) Local governments;
4 (e) Tribal governments;
5 (f) The United States forest service;
6 (g) The parks and recreation commission;
7 (h) The recreation and conservation office;
8 (i) The department of fish and wildlife;
9 (j) State trust land beneficiaries;
10 (k) A representative of the governor, appointed by the governor;

11 and

12 (l) Members of the senate and house of representatives, as
13 appointed by the legislature.

14 (3) The commissioner of public lands, or the commissioner's
15 designee, shall serve as chair, and the department of natural resources
16 shall provide technical and staff support for the work group created by
17 this section.

18 (4) Work group members shall be compensated as provided in RCW
19 43.03.250 and shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses as
20 provided by RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Costs associated with the
21 work group must be paid by the department of natural resources from the
22 general fund appropriation made available to the department of natural
23 resources.

24 (5) The work group shall conduct a minimum of two open public
25 workshops to solicit input from key stakeholders, citizens, and local
26 jurisdictions.

27 (6) The work group shall hold meetings, at diverse locations
28 throughout the state, to gather input from key stakeholders, citizens,
29 and local jurisdictions regarding the group's proposed recommendations.

30 (7) The work group shall coordinate with the stakeholder
31 recreational advisory committees appointed or established by the
32 commissioner of public lands.

33 (8) The commissioner of public lands shall submit to the
34 appropriate standing committees of the legislature, no later than
35 December 1, 2008, its findings and recommendations for legislation that
36 is necessary to implement the work group's findings.

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