
SENATE BILL 6230

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen and Murray

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

1 AN ACT Relating to watchable wildlife; amending RCW 77.32.560;
2 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.** The legislature finds that the purchase of
5 a watchable wildlife decal offers a valuable opportunity for
6 individuals to voluntarily contribute to the enhancement of the
7 habitat, infrastructure, trails, corridors, and communities that
8 provide wildlife viewing opportunities in this state. In addition to
9 improving wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, watchable
10 wildlife programs also significantly contribute to the economic
11 vitality of Washington's rural areas.

12 The legislature finds that Washington has made great strides to
13 enhance watchable wildlife activities and tourism while also protecting
14 the wildlife resources that attract the viewers. However, the
15 legislature also finds that additional investments in the watchable
16 wildlife program are needed and will further benefit Washington's
17 wildlife and rural communities, and increase wildlife viewing and other
18 recreational opportunities in the state. Therefore, the legislature

1 intends to use creative measures in an effort to increase the number of
2 individuals who voluntarily purchase watchable wildlife decals.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.32.560 and 2003 c 317 s 2 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) The department may sell watchable wildlife decals. Proceeds
6 from the sale of the decal must be deposited into the state wildlife
7 (~~fund~~) account created in RCW 77.12.170 and must be dedicated to the
8 support of the department's watchable wildlife activities. The
9 department may also use proceeds from the sale of the decal for
10 marketing the decal and for marketing watchable wildlife activities in
11 the state.

12 (2) The term "watchable wildlife activities" includes but is not
13 limited to: Initiating partnerships with communities to jointly
14 develop watchable wildlife projects, building infrastructure to serve
15 wildlife viewers, assisting and training communities in conducting
16 wildlife watching events, developing destination wildlife viewing
17 corridors and trails, tours, maps, brochures, and travel aides, and
18 offering grants to assist rural communities in identifying key wildlife
19 attractions and ways to protect and promote them.

20 (3) The commission must adopt by rule the cost of the watchable
21 wildlife decal. A person may, at their discretion, contribute more
22 than the cost as set by the commission by rule for the watchable
23 wildlife decal in order to support watchable wildlife activities. A
24 person who purchases a watchable wildlife decal must be issued one
25 vehicle use permit free of charge.

26 (4)(a) Until December 1, 2010, the department shall carry out a
27 watchable wildlife raffle pilot project.

28 (b) The pilot project must consist of no fewer than three separate
29 watchable wildlife raffles and associated tours. The department shall
30 select raffle winners from the pool of watchable wildlife decal
31 holders. The department shall provide raffle winners with a wildlife
32 viewing tour on department owned or managed lands. The tour should
33 provide participants with a desirable, high quality, and rare wildlife
34 viewing experience. The department shall seek to publicize the raffles
35 and tours, including the tour destinations, to increase public
36 awareness of the department's watchable wildlife program, watchable
37 wildlife decals, and the pilot project.

1 (c) During the pilot project, the department is encouraged to use
2 other creative measures in an effort to increase the number of
3 individuals who voluntarily purchase watchable wildlife decals.

4 (d) The department shall provide the appropriate committees of the
5 legislature with a brief summary of the pilot project and relevant
6 policy recommendations, if any, by December 1, 2010.

7 (5) This section expires January 1, 2011.

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