
SENATE BILL 5597

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Rolfes, Saldaña, McCoy, Conway, and Hasegawa

Read first time 01/24/19. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a work group on aerial pesticide
2 applications in forestlands; creating new sections; and providing
3 expiration dates.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) The legislature finds that forest
6 managers, state agencies, and the broader community share an interest
7 in minimizing human and environmental exposure to pesticides.
8 Forestland owners have made significant gains in the protection of
9 riparian and wetland areas along the state's waterways, as well as
10 protecting the health and safety of the public and forest workers,
11 through a combination of scientific advancements, ongoing education
12 and training, improved technologies, and proper monitoring and
13 regulation under the forests and fish statute and rules.

14 (b) The legislature further finds that while the use of
15 pesticides is an important tool to the timber industry, the use of
16 chemicals should be integrated within a broader pest management
17 approach that uses natural control agents and other nonchemical
18 methods. Such a judicious use of pesticides when combined and
19 integrated with the use of mechanical and biological controls, holds
20 great promise in achieving the twin objectives of maximizing economic

1 returns from working forests while protecting public health and the
2 environment.

3 (2) This section expires December 31, 2019.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A work group on aerial application of
5 pesticides on state and private forestlands is established to develop
6 recommendations for improving the best management practices for
7 aerial application of pesticides on state and private forestlands.

8 (2) The work group shall:

9 (a) Review the roles of all management and regulatory agencies in
10 approving pesticides for use and application on forestlands in
11 Washington state and review existing state and federal programs,
12 policies, and regulations concerning aerial application of pesticides
13 on forestlands;

14 (b) Review current pesticide application technology in the state
15 and throughout the nation to increase pesticide application accuracy
16 and other best management practices to minimize drift and exposure of
17 humans, fish, and wildlife as well impact on drinking water, surface
18 waters, and wetland areas;

19 (c) Review research, reports, and data from government agencies,
20 research institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and landowners
21 regarding the risks, environmental impacts, and forest management
22 benefits of the most frequently used pesticides in forest practices,
23 to inform the development and update of strategies related to
24 pesticides management on forestlands; and

25 (d) Develop recommendations for managing working forestlands
26 through an integrated pest management approach that combines chemical
27 and natural control means as well as other silvicultural practices to
28 protect resource values from pests while minimizing the effect on
29 nontarget species as well as ensuring the protection of public safety
30 and human health.

31 (3) The work group is composed of representatives from each of
32 the following agencies:

33 (a) One representative of the department of agriculture;

34 (b) One representative of the department of health;

35 (c) One representative of the department of natural resources;

36 (d) One representative of the department of ecology;

37 (e) One representative of small forestland owners;

38 (f) One representative of large forestland owners;

39 (g) One representative of aerial applicators;

- 1 (h) Three representatives of environmental or community
2 interests;
- 3 (i) One representative of the University of Washington;
- 4 (j) One representative of Washington tribes must be invited to
5 participate on the work group; and
- 6 (k) Any other interest deemed important to providing scientific,
7 policy, or economic information to the work group.
- 8 (4) The work group must be cochaired by representatives from the
9 department of ecology and the department of natural resources.
- 10 (5) Staff support for the work group must be provided by the
11 departments of natural resources and agriculture.
- 12 (6) Nonlegislative members of the work group are not entitled to
13 be reimbursed for travel expenses if they are elected officials or
14 are participating on behalf of an employer, governmental entity, or
15 other organization. Any other reimbursement for nonlegislative
16 members is subject to the limitations of class one groups under RCW
17 43.03.220.
- 18 (7) The work group shall provide a report that includes any
19 findings, recommendations, and draft legislation, to the governor,
20 appropriate committees of the legislature, and the forest practices
21 board, by November 10, 2019.
- 22 (8) This section expires December 31, 2019.

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