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HOUSE BILL 1600

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Basich, Hargrove, Jones, Sheldon, Riley, P. Johnson, Bowman, Inslee, Morris, Brumsickle, Kremen, R. Johnson, H. Myers, Peery, Rayburn, Zellinsky, Jacobsen, Paris, G. Fisher, Roland, Phillips, Orr, Cooper, Rasmussen and Spanel.

Read first time February 4, 1991. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development\Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to employment opportunities for federal timber  
2 impact areas; adding a new chapter to Title 50 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; and making an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) The forest industry in Washington is undergoing a period of  
7 dramatic change. Forced reductions in timber harvest have resulted in  
8 economic hardship for timber workers and their families.

9 (2) Existing job assistance programs do not specifically address  
10 timber workers.

11 (3) It is in the clear interest of the state to provide employment  
12 opportunities and job assistance specifically addressing dislocated  
13 timber workers.

1 It is the purpose of this chapter to establish a program that  
2 offers dislocated timber workers opportunities for forest-related  
3 employment that utilizes their unique skills.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires  
5 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this  
6 chapter:

7 (1) "Department" means the employment security department.

8 (2) "Timber worker" means any person employed in industries within  
9 the standard industrial classification code numbers 8, 24, and 26.

10 (3) "Federal timber impact area" means any county meeting two of  
11 the following three criteria for the most recent year such data are  
12 available: (a) Logging and lumber employment location quotient of 1.0  
13 or more of the state average as established by the department, (b)  
14 direct logging and lumber job loss of one hundred or more, or (c)  
15 annual unemployment rate twenty percent above the state average.

16 (4) "Program" or "counter-cyclical program" means the program for  
17 dislocated timber workers administered by the employment security  
18 department in conjunction with the department of natural resources.

19 (5) "Enrollee" means any person enrolled in the counter-cyclical  
20 program.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The counter-cyclical program for  
22 dislocated timber workers is established in the department. The  
23 program shall provide forest-related employment and job retraining  
24 assistance to unemployed timber workers residing in federal timber  
25 impact areas. The department shall notify timber workers receiving  
26 unemployment benefits, or who have exhausted unemployment benefits of  
27 their eligibility for the program.

1 (2) A person is considered a dislocated timber worker and eligible  
2 to participate in this program:

3 (a) Upon exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits received  
4 upon termination of employment from industries within the standard  
5 industrial classification code numbers 8, 24, and 26; or

6 (b) If currently unemployed, employed part time, or if employment  
7 has been terminated within one year previous to the effective date of  
8 this act.

9 (3) The department of natural resources shall employ candidates for  
10 the counter-cyclical program from a pool of eligible workers developed  
11 by the department.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department shall contract with the  
13 department of natural resources to provide employment opportunities for  
14 not less than two hundred eligible enrollees. Employment opportunities  
15 under the counter-cyclical program shall consist of activities that  
16 improve the value of state lands and waters managed by the department  
17 of natural resources. These activities may include, but are not  
18 limited to, thinning and precommercial thinning, pruning, slash  
19 removal, reforestation, fire suppression, trail maintenance,  
20 maintenance of recreational facilities, dike repair, development and  
21 maintenance of tourist facilities, stream enhancement, water quality  
22 enhancement, irrigation repair, and the building of shellfish beds.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Enrollees in the counter-cyclical  
24 program shall receive medical and dental benefits as provided under  
25 chapter 41.05 RCW, but are exempt from the provisions of chapter 41.06  
26 RCW. Compensation for the counter-cyclical program shall be at least  
27 nine dollars per hour of employment. Employees shall not work more  
28 than thirty-two hours each week in this program and must agree to

1 participate in the career orientation program established in this  
2 chapter, under the department. Participation in the counter-cyclical  
3 program is limited to six months. Employment under the program shall  
4 not result in the displacement or partial displacement of currently  
5 employed workers. This includes, but is not limited to, state  
6 employees or currently or normally contracted service employees.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The department shall develop a career  
8 orientation program for enrollees in the counter-cyclical program. The  
9 department shall provide at least eight hours of career counseling each  
10 week for enrollees in this program. The career orientation program  
11 shall include, but is not limited to, counseling on employment options  
12 and assistance in accessing retraining programs, and assistance in  
13 accessing social service programs.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The department of natural resources  
15 shall provide compensation for enrollees in this program as provided  
16 under section 5 of this act.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The sum of four million dollars, or as  
18 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium  
19 ending June 30, 1993, of which three million nine hundred twenty-five  
20 thousand dollars is from the resource management cost account and  
21 seventy-five thousand dollars is from the forest development account to  
22 the department of natural resources solely for the purposes of this  
23 act.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall  
25 constitute a new chapter in Title 50 RCW.