
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1916 -- CORRECTED COPY

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By House Committee on Revenue (originally sponsored by Representatives Belcher, Fraser, Wang, Phillips and Anderson; by request of Interagency for Outdoor Recreation).

Read first time March 10, 1991. Referred to Committee on Revenue.

1 AN ACT Relating to the establishment of a stewardship account for
2 state-owned wildlife habitat, natural areas, parks, and other
3 recreation sites; amending RCW 82.45.060 and 82.50.400; adding a new
4 chapter to Title 43 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** SHORT TITLE. This chapter shall be known as
7 the state lands stewardship act.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** PURPOSE. (1) The legislature finds that:

9 (a) The state of Washington owns and maintains a wide variety of
10 wildlife habitat, natural areas, parks, and other recreation areas for
11 the benefit of the citizens, wildlife, and other natural resources of
12 the state;

13 (b) Recent population growth has greatly increased the demands
14 placed on these lands;

1 (c) The importance of these lands to the state is increasing;

2 (d) By itself, public ownership cannot guarantee that resources
3 will be protected, or that appropriate recreational opportunities will
4 be provided;

5 (e) Only through ongoing, responsible management can wildlife
6 habitat, sensitive ecosystems, and recreational values be protected;
7 and

8 (f) The responsibility of citizens to financially support operation
9 and maintenance programs should be proportionate to the benefits
10 received.

11 (2) Therefore, it is the purpose of this chapter to provide a
12 renewed dedication to, and create a mechanism for, ensuring adequate
13 provisions for Washington's natural resource lands. The goal of this
14 chapter is to create a continuing fund source designed to protect
15 resources, visitors, and public investments; and to maximize resource
16 values, minimize long-term costs, and address the real cost of
17 operation and maintenance. This funding source will be supported by
18 monetary assessments on those who benefit from responsible stewardship
19 of state-owned natural resource lands.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** STATE LANDS STEWARDSHIP ACCOUNT. There is
21 created the state lands stewardship account in the state treasury.

22 (1) Moneys accumulated under this chapter shall be used exclusively
23 for the purposes specified in this chapter. Those purposes are to
24 support operation and maintenance activities and costs associated with
25 owning and managing resources. This includes:

26 (a) Basic responsibilities associated with holding and protecting
27 property such as, but not limited to assessments, in-lieu property
28 taxes, fire protection, and noxious weed control;

1 (b) Structure, infrastructure, and other improved resource
2 responsibilities associated with the built or manipulated environment;

3 (c) Human use management responsibilities associated with visitor
4 services and protection.

5 Land acquisition, facility development or replacement, and major
6 renovation projects are excluded.

7 (2) In the event that moneys provided under this chapter prove
8 insufficient to meet identified needs, the following order of funding
9 preference is provided.

10 (a) Basic stewardship needs; and

11 (b) Improved resource, human use management, and administrative
12 needs.

13 (3) It is intended that moneys disbursed from this account not
14 replace funding levels from other state sources to recipient agencies
15 for projects that exist on the effective date of this section.

16 (4) Agencies eligible to receive funds from this account are the
17 departments of fisheries, natural resources, and wildlife, and the
18 state parks and recreation commission.

19 (5) All receipts from sources identified in section 4 of this act
20 shall be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be
21 spent only after appropriation.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** STATE LANDS STEWARDSHIP ACCOUNT REVENUE
23 SOURCES. The state lands stewardship account shall consist of funds
24 received through:

25 (1) The real estate excise tax imposed under RCW 82.45.060(3); and

26 (2) The annual excise tax imposed under RCW 82.50.400(2).

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** USER FEES. This chapter recognizes that
28 user fees are an important funding component in natural resource

1 operation and maintenance programs. Therefore, natural resource
2 agencies authorized to collect such fees shall ensure that amounts
3 collected are regularly evaluated and increased as appropriate.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** REVENUE REVIEW. As part of the state's
5 biennial budget process, the amount of revenue deposited in the natural
6 resources stewardship account and its adequacy to support responsible
7 stewardship of state-owned lands shall be reviewed by the interagency
8 committee for outdoor recreation. Results of this review shall be
9 forwarded to the governor and appropriate legislative committees.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** CAPTIONS NOT LAW. Section headings as used
11 in this chapter do not constitute any part of the law.

12 **Sec. 8.** RCW 82.45.060 and 1987 c 472 s 14 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 (1) There is imposed an excise tax upon each sale of real property
15 at the rate of one and twenty-eight one-hundredths percent of the
16 selling price. An amount equal to seven and seven-tenths percent of
17 the proceeds of this tax to the state treasurer shall be deposited in
18 the public works assistance account created in RCW 43.155.050.

19 (2) There is imposed an additional excise tax through June 30,
20 1989, upon each sale of real property at the rate of six one-hundredths
21 of one percent of the selling price. The tax imposed under this
22 subsection shall be deposited in the conservation area account under
23 RCW 79.71.110.

24 (3) There is imposed an additional excise tax upon each sale of
25 real property at the rate of five-hundredths of one percent on the
26 amount of the sale price in excess of fifty thousand dollars. The tax

1 imposed under this subsection shall be deposited in the state lands
2 stewardship account under section 3 of this 1991 act.

3 **Sec. 9.** RCW 82.50.400 and 1990 c 42 s 320 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) An annual excise tax is imposed on the owner of any travel
6 trailer or camper for the privilege of using such travel trailer or
7 camper in this state. The excise tax hereby imposed shall be due and
8 payable to the department of licensing or its agents at the time of
9 registration of a travel trailer or camper. Whenever an application is
10 made to the department of licensing or its agents for a license for a
11 travel trailer or camper there shall be collected, in addition to the
12 amount of the license fee or renewal license fee, the amount of the
13 excise tax imposed by this chapter, and no dealer's license or license
14 plates, and no license or license plates for a travel trailer or camper
15 may be issued unless such tax is paid in full. No additional tax shall
16 be imposed under this chapter upon any travel trailer or camper upon
17 the transfer of ownership thereof, if the tax imposed by this chapter
18 with respect to such travel trailer or camper has already been paid for
19 the registration year or fractional part thereof in which such transfer
20 occurs.

21 (2) An excise tax of one-half of one percent, in addition to the
22 excise tax imposed under RCW 82.44.020 and 82.50.410 is imposed on the
23 value of motor homes as determined by RCW 82.44.041, and on the value
24 of travel trailers and campers as determined by RCW 82.50.425. The tax
25 in no case shall be less than two dollars.

26 The tax imposed under this section is due and payable to the
27 department of licensing or its agents at the time of registration and
28 annual renewal of registration of any motor home, travel trailer, and
29 camper with a registration date that expires in January 1993 and

1 thereafter. The director of licensing shall transmit the excise tax
2 collected under this subsection to the state treasurer. The state
3 treasurer shall deposit the excise taxes collected under this
4 subsection to the state lands stewardship account created in section 3
5 of this act.

6 NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. (1) The state parks and recreation
7 commission shall conduct a review of fees charged to park users. The
8 commission's review shall:

9 (a) Examine current park use including use by campers, day users,
10 boaters, recreational vehicle operators, and other users of park
11 facilities;

12 (b) Examine the extent to which the users' fees support their use
13 of park facilities; and

14 (c) Propose alternatives to the current fee structure of park fees
15 that would equitably distribute the costs of operating state parks
16 among the various user groups.

17 (2) The commission shall submit the results of the review to the
18 office of financial management and the appropriate committees of the
19 legislature by April 15, 1992.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. Sections 1 through 7 of this act shall
21 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.