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HOUSE BILL 2560

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By Representatives J. Kohl, Horn, Rust, Basich, Rayburn, Ogden, Kremen, Valle, Paris, Pruitt, Jacobsen, Haugen, Belcher, Rasmussen, Fraser and Anderson; by request of Department of Community Development

Read first time 01/22/92. Referred to Committee on Environmental Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to senior environmental corps; adding new sections  
2 to chapter 43.63A RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.23 RCW;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 43.21A RCW; adding a new section to  
4 chapter 75.08 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; adding a  
5 new section to chapter 77.12 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.51  
6 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 90.70 RCW; and declaring an  
7 emergency.

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

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

10 Enhancement and protection of the state's environment demands more  
11 resources than government funding can provide;

12 A critical underutilized asset to society is the knowledge, skills,  
13 abilities, and wisdom of our expanding, able senior population;

1 Central to the well-being and continued connection to society of  
2 Washington's senior citizens is the opportunity for them to voluntarily  
3 continue to provide meaningful contributions and to share their  
4 professional training, lifelong skills, talents, and wisdom with  
5 Washington state's citizens;

6 It will benefit all the citizens of the state of Washington to  
7 create a partnership between our senior citizens and the state's  
8 natural resource agencies to augment our capability to protect,  
9 enhance, and appreciate the environment.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires  
11 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout sections 1  
12 through 7 of this act.

13 "Agency" means one of the agencies or organizations participating  
14 in the activities of the senior environmental corps.

15 "Coordinator" means the person designated by the director of the  
16 department of community development with the advice of the council to  
17 administer the activities of the senior environmental corps.

18 "Corps" means the senior environmental corps.

19 "Council" means the senior environmental corps coordinating  
20 council.

21 "Department" means the department of community development.

22 "Director" means the director of the department of community  
23 development or the director's authorized representative.

24 "Representative" means the person who represents an agency on the  
25 council and is responsible for the activities of the senior  
26 environmental corps in his or her agency.

27 "Senior" means any person who is fifty-five years of age or over.

1 "Volunteer" means a person who is willing to work without  
2 expectation of salary or financial reward, and who chooses where he or  
3 she provides services and the type of services he or she provides.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The senior environmental corps is  
5 created within the department of community development. The  
6 departments of agriculture, community development, ecology, fisheries,  
7 health, and wildlife, the parks and recreation commission, and the  
8 Puget Sound water quality authority shall participate in the  
9 administration and implementation of the corps and shall appoint  
10 representatives to the council.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The goals of the corps shall be to:  
12 Provide resources and a support structure to facilitate corps  
13 activities and accomplish goals;  
14 Carry out professional and paraprofessional projects that focus on  
15 conservation, protection, rehabilitation, and enhancement of the  
16 state's natural, environmental, and recreational resources and that  
17 otherwise would not be implemented because of limited financial  
18 resources;  
19 Provide meaningful opportunities for senior volunteers to continue  
20 to utilize their professional training, lifelong skills, abilities,  
21 experience, and wisdom through participation in corps projects;  
22 Assist agencies in carrying out statutory assignments with limited  
23 funding resources;  
24 Enhance community understanding of environmental issues through  
25 educational outreach; and  
26 Enhance the state's ability to provide needed public services in  
27 both urban and rural settings.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**        The department shall convene a senior  
2 environmental corps coordinating council to meet as needed to establish  
3 and assess policies, define standards for projects, evaluate and select  
4 projects, develop recruitment, training, and placement procedures,  
5 receive and review project status and completion reports, and provide  
6 for recognition of volunteer activity. The council shall include  
7 representatives appointed by the departments of agriculture, community  
8 development, ecology, fisheries, health, and wildlife, the parks and  
9 recreation commission, and the Puget Sound water quality authority.  
10 The council shall develop bylaws, policies and procedures to govern its  
11 activities.

12        The council shall advise the director on distribution of available  
13 funding for corps activities.

14        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**        (1) Contingent upon available funding,  
15 the department shall:

16        Provide a coordinator and staff support to the council as needed;

17        Provide support to the agencies for recruitment of volunteers;

18        Develop a budget and allocate available funds with the advice of  
19 the council;

20        Develop a written volunteer agreement;

21        Collect and maintain project and volunteer records;

22        Provide reports to the legislature and the council as requested;

23        Provide agency project managers and volunteers with orientation to  
24 the corps program and training in the use of volunteers;

25        Act as a liaison with and provide information to other states and  
26 jurisdictions on the corps program and program activities;

27        Appoint a representative to the coordinating council;

28        Develop project proposals;

29        Administer project activities within the agency;

1       Develop appropriate procedures for the use of volunteers;  
2       Provide project orientation, technical training, safety training,  
3 equipment, and supplies to carry out project activities;  
4       Maintain project records and provide project reports;  
5       Apply for and accept grants or contributions for corps approved  
6 projects; and  
7       With the approval of the council, enter into memoranda of  
8 understanding and cooperative agreements with federal, state, and local  
9 agencies to carry out corps approved projects.

10       (2) The department shall not use corps volunteers to displace  
11 currently employed workers.

12       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 7.**       All volunteer activity must be performed  
13 under the terms of a written master agreement approved by the council  
14 and the attorney general. As a minimum, the volunteer agreement must  
15 include a description of the work that the volunteer is to perform,  
16 including the standards of performance required, any expenses or other  
17 benefits to which the volunteer is to be entitled, such as mileage,  
18 lodging, state industrial coverage, uniforms, or other clothing or  
19 supplies, training or other support to be provided to the volunteer by  
20 the agency, the duration of the agreement, and the terms under which  
21 the agreement may be canceled.

22       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 8.**   A new section is added to chapter 43.23 RCW  
23 to read as follows:

24       (1) The department of agriculture shall have the following powers  
25 and duties in carrying out its responsibilities for the senior  
26 environmental corps created under section 3 of this act:

27       Appoint a representative to the coordinating council;  
28       Develop project proposals;

1 Administer project activities within the agency;  
2 Develop appropriate procedures for the use of volunteers;  
3 Provide project orientation, technical training, safety training,  
4 equipment, and supplies to carry out project activities;  
5 Maintain project records and provide project reports;  
6 Apply for and accept grants or contributions for corps approved  
7 projects; and  
8 With the approval of the council, enter into memoranda of  
9 understanding and cooperative agreements with federal, state, and local  
10 agencies to carry out corps approved projects.

11 (2) The department shall not use corps volunteers to displace  
12 currently employed workers.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21A RCW  
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) The department of ecology shall have the following powers and  
16 duties in carrying out its responsibilities for the senior  
17 environmental corps created under section 3 of this act:

18 Appoint a representative to the coordinating council;  
19 Develop project proposals;  
20 Administer project activities within the agency;  
21 Develop appropriate procedures for the use of volunteers;  
22 Provide project orientation, technical training, safety training,  
23 equipment, and supplies to carry out project activities;  
24 Maintain project records and provide project reports;  
25 Apply for and accept grants or contributions for corps approved  
26 projects; and  
27 With the approval of the council, enter into memoranda of  
28 understanding and cooperative agreements with federal, state, and local  
29 agencies to carry out corps approved projects.

1 (2) The department shall not use corps volunteers to displace  
2 currently employed workers.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 75.08 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The department of fisheries shall have the following powers and  
6 duties in carrying out its responsibilities for the senior  
7 environmental corps created under section 3 of this act:

8 Appoint a representative to the coordinating council;

9 Develop project proposals;

10 Administer project activities within the agency;

11 Develop appropriate procedures for the use of volunteers;

12 Provide project orientation, technical training, safety training,  
13 equipment, and supplies to carry out project activities;

14 Maintain project records and provide project reports;

15 Apply for and accept grants or contributions for corps approved  
16 projects; and

17 With the approval of the council, enter into memoranda of  
18 understanding and cooperative agreements with federal, state, and local  
19 agencies to carry out corps approved projects.

20 (2) The department shall not use corps volunteers to displace  
21 currently employed workers.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW  
23 to read as follows:

24 (1) The department of health shall have the following powers and  
25 duties in carrying out its responsibilities for the senior  
26 environmental corps created under section 3 of this act:

27 Appoint a representative to the coordinating council;

28 Develop project proposals;

1 Administer project activities within the agency;  
2 Develop appropriate procedures for the use of volunteers;  
3 Provide project orientation, technical training, safety training,  
4 equipment, and supplies to carry out project activities;  
5 Maintain project records and provide project reports;  
6 Apply for and accept grants or contributions for corps approved  
7 projects; and  
8 With the approval of the council, enter into memoranda of  
9 understanding and cooperative agreements with federal, state, and local  
10 agencies to carry out corps approved projects.

11 (2) The department shall not use corps volunteers to displace  
12 currently employed workers.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW  
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) The department of wildlife shall have the following powers and  
16 duties in carrying out its responsibilities for the senior  
17 environmental corps created under section 3 of this act:

18 Appoint a representative to the coordinating council;  
19 Develop project proposals;  
20 Administer project activities within the agency;  
21 Develop appropriate procedures for the use of volunteers;  
22 Provide project orientation, technical training, safety training,  
23 equipment, and supplies to carry out project activities;  
24 Maintain project records and provide project reports;  
25 Apply for and accept grants or contributions for corps approved  
26 projects; and  
27 With the approval of the council, enter into memoranda of  
28 understanding and cooperative agreements with federal, state, and local  
29 agencies to carry out corps approved projects.

1 (2) The department shall not use corps volunteers to displace  
2 currently employed workers.

3 NEW SECTION. Sec. 13. A new section is added to chapter 43.51 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The parks and recreation commission shall have the following  
6 powers and duties in carrying out its responsibilities for the senior  
7 environmental corps created under section 3 of this act:

8 Appoint a representative to the coordinating council;

9 Develop project proposals;

10 Administer project activities within the agency;

11 Develop appropriate procedures for the use of volunteers and  
12 procedures for reimbursement of volunteer expenses;

13 Provide project orientation, technical training, safety training,  
14 equipment, and supplies to carry out project activities;

15 Maintain project records and provide project reports;

16 Apply for and accept grants or contributions for corps approved  
17 projects; and

18 With the approval of the council, enter into memoranda of  
19 understanding and cooperative agreements with federal, state, and local  
20 agencies to carry out corps approved projects.

21 (2) The commission shall not use corps volunteers to displace  
22 currently employed workers.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 14. A new section is added to chapter 90.70 RCW  
24 to read as follows:

25 (1) The Puget Sound water quality authority shall have the  
26 following powers and duties in carrying out its responsibilities for  
27 the senior environmental corps created under section 3 of this act:

28 Appoint a representative to the coordinating council;

1       Develop project proposals;  
2       Administer project activities within the agency;  
3       Develop appropriate procedures for the use of volunteers;  
4       Provide project orientation, technical training, safety training,  
5 equipment, and supplies to carry out project activities;  
6       Maintain project records and provide project reports;  
7       Apply for and accept grants or contributions for corps approved  
8 projects; and

9       With the approval of the council, enter into memoranda of  
10 understanding and cooperative agreements with federal, state, and local  
11 agencies to carry out corps approved projects.

12       (2) The authority shall not use corps volunteers to displace  
13 currently employed workers.

14       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 15.**       If any provision of this act or its  
15 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
16 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
17 persons or circumstances is not affected.

18       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 16.**       Sections 1 through 7 of this act are  
19 each added to chapter 43.63A RCW.

20       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 17.**       This act is necessary for the immediate  
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
22 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
23 effect immediately.