
HOUSE BILL 2607

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Hargrove, Jones, Heavey, Morton, Grant, Fuhrman,
Cooper and Schmidt

Read first time 01/22/92. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources
& Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to alien land ownership; amending RCW 64.16.005;
2 and creating a new section.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 64.16.005 and 1967 c 163 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section,
7 any alien may acquire and hold lands, or any right thereto, or interest
8 therein, by purchase, devise or descent; and he may convey, mortgage
9 and devise the same, and if he shall die intestate, the same shall
10 descend to his heirs, and in all cases such lands shall be held,
11 conveyed, mortgaged or devised, or shall descend in like manner and
12 with like effect as if such alien were a native citizen of this state
13 or of the United States.

1 (2) No natural person may acquire directly or indirectly any
2 interest in agricultural, forest, or mineral land designated by cities
3 and counties in accordance with chapter 36.70A RCW unless the person is
4 a citizen of the United States or a permanent resident alien of the
5 United States.

6 (3) No corporation, partnership, limited partnership, trustee, or
7 other business entity may directly or indirectly, acquire or otherwise
8 obtain any interest, whether legal, beneficial, or otherwise, in any
9 title to agricultural, forest, or mineral land designated by cities and
10 counties unless at least eighty percent of each class of stock issued
11 and outstanding or eighty percent of the ultimate beneficial interest
12 of the entity is held directly or indirectly by citizens of the United
13 States or permanent resident aliens of the United States.

14 (4) The restrictions on alien land ownership contained in
15 subsections (2) and (3) of this section do not apply to:

16 (a) Land that may be acquired by devise, inheritance, as security
17 for indebtedness, by process of law in collection of debts, or by any
18 procedure for the enforcement of a lien or claim thereon, whether
19 created by mortgage or otherwise. Land acquired in the collection of
20 debts or by the enforcement of a lien or claim shall be disposed of
21 within three years of acquiring ownership; or

22 (b) Citizens or subjects of a foreign country whose rights to hold
23 land are secured by treaty.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. (1) This act applies prospectively only
25 and not retroactively. It applies only to causes of action which arise
26 on or after the effective date of this act.

27 (2) This act does not affect, adversely or otherwise, any title to
28 any lands or any interest in any lands held or claimed by any private
29 person or corporation prior to the effective date of this act.