
SENATE BILL 6211

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/09/2006. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the timber land revitalization board; and adding
2 a new chapter to Title 76 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that more than half of
5 the state's forty-two and one-half million acres are forest lands and
6 that the majority of these lands are available for harvest. However,
7 many of the state's forest lands are threatened by conversion to
8 nonforest uses, mostly from commercial and residential development. In
9 addition, worldwide fiber commodity prices, increased environmental
10 regulations, and changing patterns in corporate and individual
11 ownership of forest lands are also contributing to the declines in
12 working forest lands in the state. Therefore, it is the intent of this
13 chapter to provide greater state financial assistance to revitalize and
14 maintain forest lands in the state, through creation of a funding board
15 to make grants on a competitive basis that support protection of the
16 forest land base and that assist in developing innovative strategies
17 for supporting economically and environmentally healthy forests and
18 forest-dependent communities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
2 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

3 (1) "Board" means the timber land revitalization board created in
4 section 3 of this act.

5 (2) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

6 (3) "Priority needs areas" means the geographic areas identified by
7 the department for priority lands to be addressed under the forest
8 legacy program.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The timber land revitalization board is
10 created. The board is composed of five members, of whom four members
11 must be appointed by the governor. The commissioner of public lands
12 shall serve ex officio as a voting member of the board. In making
13 appointments, the governor shall provide for representation of the
14 interests of industrial forest landowners, nonindustrial forest
15 landowners, local governments, and nonprofit citizen organizations
16 involved with the revitalization of timber lands and protection of the
17 state's forest land base. The governor shall solicit and give
18 substantial consideration to nominations provided by organizations
19 representing these interests. Appointments to the board by the
20 governor are subject to senate confirmation.

21 (2) The governor shall select a chair from among the members of the
22 board.

23 (3) Board members serve four-year terms, except that the governor
24 shall designate two of the initial appointments to serve for a term of
25 two years. The terms commence January 1, 2007.

26 (4) Staff support to the board shall be provided by the department.
27 For administrative purposes, the board shall be located within the
28 department.

29 (5) Members of the board shall be compensated as provided by RCW
30 43.03.250, and reimbursed for travel expenses as provided by RCW
31 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The board is responsible for making
33 grants and loans for the revitalization of timber lands consistent with
34 the procedures and criteria of section 5 of this act, from the amounts
35 appropriated to the board for this purpose. To accomplish this
36 purpose, the board may:

1 (a) Provide assistance to grant applicants regarding the procedures
2 and criteria for grant and loan awards;

3 (b) Make and execute all manner of contracts and agreements with
4 public and private parties as the board deems necessary, consistent
5 with the purposes of this chapter;

6 (c) Accept any gifts, grants, or loans of funds, property, or
7 financial or other aid in any form from any other source on any terms
8 that are not in conflict with this chapter;

9 (d) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW as necessary to carry out
10 the purposes of this chapter; and

11 (e) Do all acts necessary or convenient to carry out the powers
12 expressly granted or implied under this chapter.

13 (2) The department shall provide all necessary grant and loan
14 administration assistance to the board, and shall distribute and
15 account for funds appropriated or provided to the board for the
16 purposes of this chapter.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) During each fiscal biennium, the board's
18 total grants and loans are subject to the following limitations:

19 (a) Not less than thirty percent and not more than forty percent of
20 the total must be awarded for projects and activities that sustain the
21 forest land base and strengthen the connection between economic health
22 and conservation of forests in Washington. Such activities may include
23 but are not limited to:

24 (i) Programs or projects to support small timber landowners
25 including such strategies as group timber certification, group habitat
26 conservation plans, group cash flow pools, stewardship collaboration,
27 and technical support;

28 (ii) Programs or projects that test methods for recreation access
29 and cost-share programs;

30 (iii) Programs or projects that test methods to assist forest
31 landowners in providing carbon sequestration, water recharge, and other
32 natural resource services; and

33 (iv) Programs or projects that test methods to support forest
34 landowners' efforts at cost control, such as law enforcement, road
35 gates, and cleanup of illegal dumping.

36 (b) Not less than thirty percent and not more than forty percent of

1 the total must be awarded for projects and activities that preserve
2 forest lands over the long term for working forestry. Such activities
3 may include but are not limited to:

4 (i) The acquisition of interests in forest lands for the purpose of
5 protecting the lands for working forestry;

6 (ii) Developing and implementing cooperative agreements with forest
7 landowners for maintaining working forestry; and

8 (iii) Other activities using conservation techniques such as
9 clustering development rights, transfer of development rights, and land
10 exchanges.

11 (c) Not less than thirty percent and not more than forty percent of
12 the total must be awarded for planning, research, and policy
13 development related to revitalizing working forests in the state.

14 (2) The board shall adopt guidelines for the amount of nonstate
15 resources that must be committed for grants or loans from the
16 categories established by the board. The amount may not be less than
17 ten percent of the amount of the grant or loan from the board.

18 (3) The board shall also adopt guidelines that limit the amount of
19 a grant or loan that may be allocated to administrative or other
20 expenses of a grant or loan recipient that are not directly applied to
21 the working forestry revitalization activities of the grant or loan.

22 (4) The board shall accord additional weight to applications that
23 address forest lands within priority needs areas.

24 (5) During each fiscal year commencing July 1, 2007, and ending
25 June 30, 2016, the board shall establish a goal of disbursing a minimum
26 of twenty-five percent of the total funds awarded by the board in the
27 form of low-interest loans. However, if the board determines that
28 there are not sufficient applications for eligible projects to meet
29 this goal, the board may award a lesser amount as loans, or may hold
30 funds until the next funding cycle to encourage a greater number of
31 loan applications.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute
33 a new chapter in Title 76 RCW.

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