
HOUSE BILL 1652

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Grant, Kretz, Hailey, Blake, Pearson, McCoy, B. Sullivan and Kristiansen

Read first time 01/24/2007. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to wildfire prevention and protection; creating new
2 sections; making an appropriation; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The wildfire prevention and protection work
5 group is established. The work group consists of the following
6 members:

7 (1) Two members representing counties that contain significant
8 forest land, grazing land, or both, at least one each from eastern and
9 western Washington, selected by the governor in consultation with a
10 statewide association representing the interests of counties;

11 (2) A member representing a city that contains significant forest
12 land, grazing land, or both, selected by the governor in consultation
13 with a statewide association representing the interests of cities;

14 (3) Three members representing fire districts that contain
15 significant forest land, grazing land, or both, at least one each from
16 eastern and western Washington, selected by the state fire marshal in
17 consultation with a statewide association representing the interests of
18 fire commissioners;

1 (4) Two members representing environmental protection
2 organizations, selected by the executive director of the Washington
3 state conservation commission;

4 (5) A member representing industrial forest landowners, selected by
5 the governor in consultation with a statewide association representing
6 the interests of industrial landowners;

7 (6) A member representing small forest landowners, selected by the
8 governor in consultation with a statewide association representing the
9 interests of small forest landowners;

10 (7) A member representing the building industry, selected by the
11 governor in consultation with a statewide association representing the
12 interests of the building industry;

13 (8) A member representing realtors, selected by the governor in
14 consultation with a statewide association representing the interests of
15 realtors;

16 (9) One representative of agriculture selected by the director of
17 the department of agriculture in consultation with a statewide
18 association representing the interests of farmers;

19 (10) One contract logger selected by the governor in consultation
20 with a statewide association representing the interests of contract
21 loggers;

22 (11) One person selected by the director of the department of
23 agriculture in consultation with a statewide association representing
24 the interests of cattlemen;

25 (12) One person from the Washington state patrol's fire protection
26 program selected by the state fire marshal;

27 (13) One retired professional forester selected by the governor in
28 consultation with an association representing the interests of
29 professional foresters;

30 (14) Two forest landowners with large forest lands, one from east
31 of the crest of the Cascade mountains and one from west of the crest of
32 the Cascade mountains, selected by the governor;

33 (15) The insurance commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

34 (16) A member representing the Washington state building code
35 council, selected by the chair of the council; and

36 (17) The commissioner of public lands, or the commissioner's
37 designee.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The wildfire prevention and protection
2 work group created in section 1 of this act shall review existing fire
3 studies conducted by or for the department of natural resources, the
4 joint legislative audit and review committee, and other organizations.
5 The work group shall review the following issues:

6 (a) Whether the forest fire protection assessment rate provides
7 sufficient funding towards the protection of public and private lands
8 from wildfires;

9 (b) Whether the statutory limitations on the purposes for which
10 moneys collected through the forest fire protection assessment and from
11 the landowner contingency forest fire suppression account may be
12 expended are warranted;

13 (c) Whether the term "forest land," as set forth in RCW 76.04.005,
14 properly defines the scope of land on which the forest fire protection
15 assessment should be assessed;

16 (d) Whether forest fire protection assessments are currently being
17 collected from all lands on which the department of natural resources
18 has the duty to impose such assessments;

19 (e) Whether the adoption of elements from wildfire programs of
20 other western states would improve wildfire protection and suppression
21 in Washington state;

22 (f) Whether the department of natural resources' authority to
23 protect forest land should include the authority to protect structures;

24 (g) Whether improvements and efficiencies in the department of
25 natural resources' fire protection activities would impact fire
26 suppression activities and expenses;

27 (h) Whether state and local building codes adequately address the
28 dangers posed by development in areas subject to wildfires;

29 (i) Whether local government land use regulations, and state
30 advisory and assistance programs, adequately address the dangers posed
31 by development in areas subject to wildfires; and

32 (j) Whether insurance rates in Washington state reflect the dangers
33 posed by development in areas subject to wildfires.

34 (2) Members of the forest fire prevention and protection work group
35 shall be reimbursed for travel expenses under RCW 43.03.050 and
36 43.03.060.

37 (3) The work group must be staffed by senate committee services and
38 the office of program research.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The wildfire prevention and protection work
2 group shall report its findings and recommendations in the form of
3 draft legislation to the legislature by December 1, 2007.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of thirty-five thousand dollars, or
5 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
6 year ending June 30, 2008, from the general fund to the senate for the
7 travel expenses of the wildfire prevention and protection work group.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act expires July 1, 2008.

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