
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5015

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation
(originally sponsored by Senators Jacobsen, Poulsen and Shin)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to designating the state ornithologist; adding a
2 new section to chapter 77.12 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Birds are both a fundamental part of
5 Washington's biota and a source of daily viewing pleasure for all
6 Washingtonians. The occurrence of rare wild birds, such as transient
7 species from other continents, generates enormous interest from bird
8 watchers and the public generally, and provides economic benefits to
9 the community hosting the rare bird or birds. There is great public
10 interest in promoting backyard bird habitat and feeding, and gaining
11 greater understanding of bird types, behavior, and conservation needs.
12 The designation of a state ornithologist will serve the public's
13 interest.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) The director shall appoint a person with avian expertise as the
17 Washington state ornithologist. In making the appointment the director
18 shall consider recommendations of candidates from public and private

1 avian research institutions, the ornithology department at the Burke
2 museum of natural history and culture, the private research sector, and
3 public organizations relating to ornithology. The state ornithologist
4 serves at the pleasure of the director. The position shall be
5 honorary, and the state ornithologist shall serve without compensation
6 except the department may pay travel and per diem costs as requested.

7 (2) The state ornithologist serves primarily as a source of
8 expertise to the department and other state agencies regarding bird
9 research and conservation. He or she also serves to assist the public
10 in bird conservation efforts, including bird feeding, bird nesting, and
11 designing bird friendly yards. The state ornithologist will also
12 assist the governor, state agencies, and the legislature in the design
13 of bird conservation programs and policies. These conservation efforts
14 shall be pursued as one part of the ecosystem-based management approach
15 by the department and other wildlife management agencies and
16 organizations.

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