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SENATE BILL 5015

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Poulsen and Shin

Read first time 01/08/2007. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

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

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