
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5188

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation
(originally sponsored by Senators Haugen, Jacobsen, Prentice,
Fairley, Kline, Marr, Kohl-Welles, Tom, Murray, Keiser and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to a wildlife rehabilitation program; amending RCW
2 46.16.606; adding new sections to chapter 77.12 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The paramount duty of the department of fish
6 and wildlife is to preserve, protect, and perpetuate all wildlife
7 species. The wildlife of Washington belongs to the citizens of this
8 state and is a valuable resource that must be protected and cared for
9 in order to preserve this resource for Washington's future. As
10 Washington's population continues to expand and more land that was once
11 wildlife habitat is developed for homes and businesses, injury to and
12 human interactions with wildlife is on the rise. Licensed wildlife
13 rehabilitators often work closely with local law enforcement, animal
14 control officers, wildlife enforcement officers, and wildlife
15 biologists at the state and federal levels to aid in the safe capture,
16 testing for disease, medical treatment, rehabilitation, and release of
17 wildlife. The state recognizes the critical role licensed wildlife
18 rehabilitators play in capturing and caring for the sick, injured, and
19 orphaned wildlife of Washington state.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.16.606 and 1991 sp.s. c 7 s 13 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 In addition to the fees imposed in RCW 46.16.585 for application
4 and renewal of personalized license plates an additional fee of (~~ten~~)
5 twelve dollars shall be charged. (~~The revenue~~) Ten dollars from the
6 additional fee shall be deposited in the state wildlife (~~fund~~)
7 account and used for the management of resources associated with the
8 nonconsumptive use of wildlife. Two dollars from the additional fee
9 shall be deposited into the wildlife rehabilitation account created
10 under section 3 of this act.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 The wildlife rehabilitation account is created in the state
14 treasury. All receipts from moneys directed to the account from RCW
15 46.16.606 must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account
16 may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account
17 may be used only for the support of the wildlife rehabilitation program
18 created under section 4 of this act.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW
20 to read as follows:

21 (1) The director shall establish a wildlife rehabilitation program
22 to help support the critical role licensed wildlife rehabilitators play
23 in protecting the public by capturing, testing for disease, and caring
24 for sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife in Washington state. The
25 director shall contract for wildlife rehabilitation services with up to
26 four people in each of the department's six administrative regions.
27 Applicants may submit only one request every two years and must reside
28 in the administrative region for which they have applied. The
29 contracts must be for a term of two years.

30 (2) In order to receive funding, the wildlife rehabilitator must:
31 (a) Be properly licensed in wildlife rehabilitation under state and
32 federal law; and (b) furnish information concerning his or her
33 identity, including fingerprints for submission to the Washington state
34 patrol to include a national criminal background check. The applicant
35 must pay for the cost of the criminal background check. If the

1 background check reveals that the applicant has been convicted of a
2 felony or gross misdemeanor, the applicant is ineligible to receive
3 funding.

4 (3) The department must require that contractors submit detailed
5 reports accounting for all expenditures of state funds. The reports
6 must be submitted to the department on a quarterly basis. The
7 department may require the contractor to submit to an inspection of the
8 rehabilitation facility to ensure compliance with department rules
9 governing wildlife rehabilitation. Expenditures that are permitted
10 under this program as they specifically relate to wildlife
11 rehabilitation include: (a) Reimbursement for diagnostic and lab
12 support services; (b) purchase and maintenance of proper restraints and
13 equipment used in the capture, transportation, temporary housing, and
14 release of wildlife; (c) reimbursement of contracted veterinary
15 services; (d) reimbursement of the cost of food, medication, and other
16 consumables; and (e) reimbursement of the cost of continuing education.
17 The department shall give priority to applications submitted that
18 provide for the rehabilitation of endangered or threatened species.
19 Funds may not be used to rehabilitate either nonnative species or
20 nuisance animals, or both, including, but not limited to the following:
21 Eastern gray squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*); opossum (*Didelphis*
22 *virginiana*); raccoons (*Procyon lotor*); striped skunk (*Mephitis*
23 *mephitis*); spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*); Eastern cottontail
24 rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*); domestic rabbit (*Oryctolagus*
25 *cuniculus*); European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*); and house sparrow
26 (*Passer domesticus*).

27 (4) The department may adopt any rules as are necessary to carry
28 out this section.

29 (5) The wildlife rehabilitation program must include a subprogram
30 to provide compensation to hound handlers when contracting with hound
31 handlers for their services. Compensation must include loss,
32 destruction, or damage to personal property during the course of
33 locating problem wildlife.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW
35 to read as follows:

36 The department must develop a process for renewing wildlife
37 rehabilitation licenses. All wildlife rehabilitation licenses issued

1 by the department prior to January 1, 2006, must be renewed by January
2 1, 2010. The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement this
3 section.

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