
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 1273

Brief Description: Concerning access to land for hunting and fishing.

Sponsors: Representatives Kristiansen, Blake, Orcutt, Chandler, McCune, Pearson and Harris.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Prohibits a public agency from allowing one specified segment or segments of the general public to access land for the purposes of hunting or fishing without providing the same opportunity for access to the entire general public.

Hearing Date: 2/1/11

Staff: Jason Callahan (786-7117).

Background:

There are multiple governmental entities in the state that manage open, undeveloped land that is suitable for hunting and fishing. These agencies include the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources, and local government. Each governmental land manager is assigned a unique land management mandate and, within the limits established by law, permitted to manage the land consistent with its mandate.

A public agency is defined as any branch, department, or unit of the state government [RCW 43.30.020].

Summary of Bill:

A public agency is prohibited from allowing one specified segment or segments of the general public to access land for the purposes of hunting or fishing without provided the same

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opportunity for access to the general public. This applies to rules, access contract and agreements, and all other forms of express or implied permission. Any agreements already existing that allows for access to groups other than the general public must either be suspended or amended to allow access by the general public.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.