
Labor & Workforce Development Committee

SSB 5538

Brief Description: Concerning members of certain nonprofit conservation corps programs.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection (originally sponsored by Senator White).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Exempts participants in conservation corps programs offered by nonprofit organizations from provisions related to rates of compensation while performing environmental and trail maintenance work.

Hearing Date: 3/8/11

Staff: Alison Hellberg (786-7152).

Background:

The National and Community Service Trust Act (Act) was enacted in 1993 and established the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Act launched AmeriCorps, a network of programs that promote national service in education, public safety, health, and the environment. Language in the Act specifies living allowances and other benefits provided to participants, and the United States Department of Labor has determined that AmeriCorps participants are exempt from federal Davis-Bacon Act labor standards, which establishes a prevailing wage for government public projects.

The Legislature created the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) in 1983 to provide work experience and skills to the youth of the state between the ages of 18 and 25. The WCC projects support conservation, rehabilitation, and enhancement of the state's natural, historic, environmental, and recreational resources. The WCC members are paid the minimum wage.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

Participants in a conservation corps program offered by a nonprofit organization are exempt from provisions related to rates of compensation while performing environmental and trail maintenance work. The nonprofit must be affiliated with a national service organization established under the National and Community Service Trust Act, registered with the Secretary of State, and have its management and administrative headquarters located in state.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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