
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5123

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senate Natural Resources & Marine Waters (originally sponsored by Senators Ranker, Morton, and Hargrove)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/11.

1 AN ACT Relating to the institute of forest resources; amending RCW
2 76.44.070 and 76.44.030; adding new sections to chapter 76.44 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there are many
6 challenging issues facing the forest sector, such as climate change,
7 loss of forest cover in rural and urban areas, forest health and fire,
8 development of environmental services markets, enhancement of habitat
9 and biodiversity, timber and water supplies, restoration of forest
10 ecosystems, and the economic health of forest dependent communities
11 that rely on the retention of working forests. These forest issues,
12 occurring in both urban and rural environments, and the approaches
13 taken to address them, transcend the expertise and mission of the
14 University of Washington school of forest resources' centers and
15 cooperatives. While each center and cooperative contributes important
16 expertise and resources, the structure and continuity for the
17 integrated, interdisciplinary approach needed to address these complex
18 issues is lacking. The institute of forest resources will provide this
19 structure and continuity by drawing contributions from the centers and

1 cooperatives into a more consolidated, collaborative,
2 interdisciplinary, and integrated process that is responsive to the
3 critical issues confronting the forest sector.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 76.44.070 and 2010 c 188 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The legislature finds that there are many issues facing the forest
7 sector, such as climate change, forest health and fire, carbon
8 accounting, habitat and diversity, timber and water supplies, economic
9 competitiveness, and the economic health of forest dependent
10 communities. Enhancing the capability to effectively address these
11 forest issues is critical to the state of Washington. To meet this
12 need, the University of Washington school of forest resources will
13 continue to work with the various interests concerned with the state's
14 forest resources, including the legislature, state and federal
15 governments, environmental organizations, local communities, the timber
16 industry, and tribes, to improve these entities' ability to
17 competitively recruit, educate, and train a high quality workforce. In
18 order to meet these goals, it is important to our state and in
19 particular, the University of Washington, to continue to have strong
20 undergraduate and graduate programs in forestry and natural resources
21 to provide well-trained professionals to meet workforce needs.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 76.44 RCW
23 to read as follows:

24 The director of the school of forest resources of the University of
25 Washington must coordinate the school of forest resources' cooperatives
26 and centers to promote a more holistic, efficient, and integrated
27 approach to broaden its research and outreach programs to address the
28 issues facing the forest sector.

29 **Sec. 4.** RCW 76.44.030 and 1979 c 50 s 5 are each amended to read
30 as follows:

31 (1) The institute of forest resources ((shall)) must pursue
32 coordinated research and education related to the forest ((resource))
33 sector and its multiple ((use)) uses, including: Its conservation,
34 restoration, sustainable management and utilization; its ((evaluation
35 of forest land use and the maintenance of its)) economic, ecological,

1 and societal value in both urban and rural environments; the
2 manufacture and marketing of forest products, including timber,
3 nontimber, and environmental services; and the provision of recreation
4 and aesthetic values.

5 (2) The institute of forest resources must seek to provide a
6 framework to identify, prioritize, fund, and conduct interdisciplinary
7 research critical to the forest sector and to develop integrated,
8 synthesized information and decision support tools to improve
9 understanding of these complex issues for stakeholders, policymakers,
10 and others.

11 (3) In pursuit of these objectives, the institute of forest
12 resources is authorized to cooperate with other entities, including,
13 but not limited to, universities, state and federal agencies,
14 conservation and environmental organizations, and domestic or foreign
15 industrial and business institutions((~~domestic or foreign~~)) where
16 such cooperation advances these objectives.

17 (4) The institute of forest resources may solicit gifts, grants,
18 conveyances, bequests, and devises, whether real or personal property,
19 or both, in trust or otherwise, to be directed to the institute for
20 carrying out the purposes of the institute. The institute may solicit
21 contracts for work, financial and in-kind contributions, and support
22 from private industries, interest groups, federal and state sources,
23 and other sources. It may also use separately appropriated moneys of
24 the University of Washington for the institute's activities.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 76.44 RCW
26 to read as follows:

27 The director of the school of forest resources of the University of
28 Washington may appoint a policy advisory committee consisting of eleven
29 members to advise the director of the school of forest resources on
30 policies for the institute of forest resources that are consistent with
31 the purposes of the institute. Membership on the policy advisory
32 committee must broadly represent the various interests concerned with
33 the purposes of the institute of forest resources, including state and
34 federal governments, conservation and environmental organizations,
35 urban forestry interests, rural communities, industry and business, and

1 tribal interests.

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