
HOUSE BILL 2170

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Buck, Goldsmith, Benton, Blanton, Thompson, Hymes, Koster, Pennington, Campbell, Stevens, Hargrove and McMahan

Read first time 01/08/96. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to state ownership of and jurisdiction over areas
2 associated with beds and banks of navigable waters; adding a new
3 section to chapter 79.90 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 43.01
4 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 79.90 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 Under applicable federal and state law the state of Washington was
9 admitted to the union on equal footing with the original thirteen
10 states. The state of Washington has not ceded to the United States,
11 either expressly or implicitly, its ownership of and jurisdiction over
12 the beds and banks of navigable waters, all soils under the beds and
13 banks, and all tidewaters associated with the beds and banks within the
14 borders of the state of Washington, retaining absolute sovereignty,
15 dominion, and control to dispose of title to the property.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.01 RCW
17 to read as follows:

1 In the discharge of their official duties, the governor, attorney
2 general, and other constitutional officers shall vigorously assert and
3 defend in all forms the state's ownership of and jurisdiction over the
4 beds and banks of navigable waters, all soils under the beds and banks,
5 and all tidewaters within the borders of the state of Washington.

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