

2 SHB 1565 - CONF REPT  
3 By Conference Committee

4 ADOPTED 4/26/97

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that small scale  
8 prospecting and mining: (1) Is an important part of the heritage of  
9 the state; (2) provides economic benefits to the state; and (3) can be  
10 conducted in a manner that is beneficial to fish habitat and fish  
11 propagation. Now, therefore, the legislature declares that small scale  
12 prospecting and mining shall be regulated in the least burdensome  
13 manner that is consistent with the state's fish management objectives  
14 and the federal endangered species act.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 75.20 RCW  
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) Small scale prospecting and mining shall not require written  
18 approval under this chapter if the prospecting is conducted in  
19 accordance with provisions established by the department.

20 (2) By December 31, 1998, the department shall adopt rules  
21 applicable to small scale prospecting and mining activities subject to  
22 this section. The department shall develop the rules in cooperation  
23 with the recreational mining community and other interested parties.

24 (3) Within two months of adoption of the rules, the department  
25 shall distribute an updated gold and fish pamphlet that describes  
26 methods of mineral prospecting that are consistent with the  
27 department's rule. The pamphlet shall be written to clearly indicate  
28 the prospecting methods that require written approval under this  
29 chapter and the prospecting methods that require compliance with the  
30 pamphlet. To the extent possible, the department shall use the  
31 provisions of the gold and fish pamphlet to minimize the number of  
32 specific provisions of a written approval issued under this chapter.

33 (4) For the purposes of this chapter, "small scale prospecting and  
34 mining" means only the use of the following methods: Pans,

1 nonmotorized sluice boxes, concentrators, and minirocker boxes for the  
2 discovery and recovery of minerals."

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6 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "mining;" strike the  
7 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter  
8 75.20 RCW; and creating a new section."

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