

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5829

As of February 18, 1997

Title: An act relating to the nonindigenous species invasion task force.

Brief Description: Establishing the nonindigenous species invasion task force.

Sponsors: Senators Jacobsen and Fraser.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources & Parks: 2/25/97.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

Staff: Ross Antipa (786-7413)

Background: Nonindigenous species have become established in Washington's waters and lands. These exotic species can adversely affect native species or environments.

The state has no program to address the introduction of nonindigenous species.

Summary of Bill: A nonindigenous species invasion task force is created. The departments of Fish and Wildlife, Ecology, Public Lands, and Agriculture are represented on the task force. The task force must prevent establishment of nonindigenous species, provide risk assessments, respond to emergency situations, provide a mechanism for eradication, and report to the Legislature. A risk and priority assessment must be completed by January 1, 1998. An interagency response plan for species eradication or management is due by July 1, 1998. An interagency invasion response team must be appointed by January 1, 1998.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 17, 1997.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.