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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1492**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Buck, Kessler and Schoesler)

Read first time 03/05/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to natural area preserves; and adding a new section  
2 to chapter 79.70 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 79.70 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Prior to acquiring any property for a natural area preserve  
7 under RCW 79.70.030 or 79.70.040 or under chapter 43.98A RCW, the  
8 department shall hold a local public hearing in the county where the  
9 majority of the land in a proposed natural area preserve is located.  
10 At the hearing, the department shall explain the natural area preserve  
11 program and the rationale for possible inclusion of the local property  
12 as a natural area preserve. The department shall distribute an  
13 accurate map showing the proposed boundary of the proposed preserve and  
14 containing the exact legal description. At least fourteen days prior  
15 to the public hearing, the department shall send notice specifying the  
16 date, location, time, and purpose of the public hearing to each local  
17 newspaper of general circulation and to each local radio and television  
18 station.

1           (2) The department shall not acquire the property for a proposed  
2 natural area preserve for at least sixty days following the public  
3 hearing provided for in subsection (1) of this section. During that  
4 sixty days, the county legislative authority of the county where the  
5 majority of the land in a proposed natural area preserve is located may  
6 pass a resolution asking the department not to acquire the property for  
7 a natural area preserve. If the county legislative authority so  
8 requests, the department shall not acquire the property for a natural  
9 area preserve.

10          (3) The department shall hold an additional local public hearing  
11 when the department completes a draft management plan for a preserve.  
12 The department shall clearly identify the opportunities for public use  
13 and access contained in the draft management plan as well as the  
14 elimination or restriction of any existing public access. The  
15 department shall provide an opportunity for public input and testimony  
16 on the draft management plan. The department shall provide notice of  
17 the additional public hearing in the same manner as in subsection (1)  
18 of this section.

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