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HOUSE BILL 2797

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Regala, Buck, Ogden, Tokuda, Hatfield and Kessler

Read first time 01/20/98. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1            AN ACT Relating to increasing public participation in the  
2 establishment of natural area preserves; amending RCW 79.70.070; and  
3 adding a new section to chapter 79.70 RCW.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 79.70.070 and 1994 c 264 s 62 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7            (1) The natural heritage advisory council is hereby established.  
8 The council shall consist of fifteen members, (~~nine~~) ten of whom  
9 shall be chosen as follows and who shall elect from the council's  
10 membership a chairperson:

11            (a) Five individuals, appointed by the commissioner, who shall be  
12 recognized experts in the ecology of natural areas and represent the  
13 public, academic, and private sectors. Desirable fields of expertise  
14 are biological and geological sciences; and

15            (b) (~~Four~~) Five individuals, appointed by the commissioner, who  
16 shall be selected from the various regions of the state. At least one  
17 member shall be or represent a private forest landowner and at least  
18 one member shall be or represent a private agricultural landowner.

1 (2) Members appointed under subsection (1) of this section shall  
2 serve for terms of four years.

3 (3) In addition to the members appointed by the commissioner, the  
4 director of the department of fish and wildlife, the director of the  
5 department of ecology, the supervisor of the department of natural  
6 resources, the director of the state parks and recreation commission,  
7 and the administrator of the interagency committee for outdoor  
8 recreation, or an authorized representative of each agency officer,  
9 shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the council.

10 (4) Any vacancy on the council shall be filled by appointment for  
11 the unexpired term by the commissioner.

12 (5) In order to provide for staggered terms, of the initial members  
13 of the council:

14 (a) Three shall serve for a term of two years;

15 (b) Three shall serve for a term of three years; and

16 (c) Three shall serve for a term of four years.

17 (6) Members of the natural preserves advisory committee serving on  
18 July 26, 1981, shall serve as members of the council until the  
19 commissioner appoints a successor to each. The successor appointment  
20 shall be specifically designated to replace a member of the natural  
21 preserves advisory committee until all members of that committee have  
22 been replaced. A member of the natural preserves advisory committee is  
23 eligible for appointment to the council if otherwise qualified.

24 (7) Members of the council shall serve without compensation.  
25 Members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW  
26 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now or hereafter amended.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 79.70 RCW  
28 to read as follows:

29 The department shall hold a public hearing in the county where the  
30 majority of the land in a proposed natural area preserve is located  
31 prior to establishing the boundary.

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