
SENATE BILL 6569

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Spanel, Prentice and Fraser

Read first time 01/21/98. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a scientific salmon and steelhead
2 funding review panel; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is of
5 paramount importance to the people of Washington to rebuild salmon and
6 steelhead runs to sustainable levels. The legislature further finds
7 that fish recovery efforts have a higher success rate when decisions
8 are based upon sound scientific information. The legislature also
9 finds that funding decisions made within state programs that assist
10 with anadromous fish recovery should be made based upon sound
11 scientific criteria and prioritized based upon a project's cost-to-
12 benefit ratio. It is the intent of the legislature to create a
13 scientific review panel to develop project funding criteria on a
14 program level that ensures that state recovery efforts are based upon
15 sound science and directed to high priority projects.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The scientific salmon and steelhead
17 funding review panel is created. The panel shall be appointed by the
18 governor and composed of five members of the scientific community with

1 expertise in salmon and steelhead recovery chosen from a list of
2 qualified candidates submitted by the dean of the school of fisheries
3 at the University of Washington; one member representing the department
4 of fish and wildlife; one member representing the department of natural
5 resources; one member representing the conservation commission; one
6 member representing the department of community, trade, and economic
7 development; and one member representing the office of financial
8 management.

9 (2) The purpose of the panel is to examine state programs that
10 provide funding for projects that benefit salmon and steelhead and to
11 work within the existing intent of the program to revise funding
12 criteria to ensure that state funds go toward projects that are based
13 upon sound science, that benefit stocks of high priority, and ensure an
14 advantageous cost-to-benefit ratio.

15 (3) By September 1, 1998, the panel shall provide its initial
16 recommendations to the director of each agency in which a program
17 criteria change has been recommended. By December 1, 1998, the panel
18 shall provide its final recommendations to each affected agency.

19 (4) The panel shall review the following: Water quality and
20 habitat restoration programs within the state conservation commission,
21 the public works trust fund within the department of community, trade,
22 and economic development, the water quality and environmental
23 assistance programs within the department of ecology, the salmonid
24 screening, habitat enhancement, and restoration program, the lands and
25 restoration services programs, the fish passage program, the
26 cooperative enhancement program, and the regional fisheries enhancement
27 group program within the department of fish and wildlife, the
28 Washington wildlife and recreation program within the interagency
29 committee for outdoor recreation, the aquatic resources, jobs for the
30 environment, landowner assistance, and natural areas programs within
31 the department of natural resources, and the storm water, watershed,
32 wetlands, and fish passage programs within the department of
33 transportation.

34 (5) By January 1, 1999, the panel shall submit a report to the
35 governor and the natural resources committee in the house of
36 representatives and the senate natural resources and parks committee
37 regarding the funding criteria changes made to state programs and the
38 need for additional legislative action.

39 (6) The panel expires June 30, 1999.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Agency programs specified in section 2(4) of
2 this act shall immediately revise program funding criteria upon the
3 receipt of same from the salmon and steelhead funding review panel.
4 Funding criteria changes remain in effect until January 1, 2000.

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