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SENATE BILL 6639

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Morton and Swecker

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a pilot project for noxious weed  
2 control in state highway rights of way; creating new sections; and  
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the department of  
6 transportation is responsible for control of noxious weeds in the full  
7 width of state highway rights of way. The legislature further finds  
8 that an effective noxious weed control program for state highway rights  
9 of way requires close cooperation with local noxious weed control  
10 boards in order to ensure that locally identified weed control  
11 priorities are addressed.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of transportation shall  
13 develop a pilot project to test the effectiveness of greater  
14 coordination between the department and local noxious weed control  
15 boards. The pilot program shall be implemented in maintenance area  
16 three in the north central region and in Ferry county of maintenance  
17 area four in the eastern region. The pilot project shall be  
18 implemented for the 1998 control season using the following procedures:

1 (1) Immediately following the effective date of this act, the  
2 relevant noxious weed control boards shall identify specific weed  
3 control priorities within their jurisdiction by (a) precise geographic  
4 areas; (b) specific species within each maintenance area; (c)  
5 recommended control methods; and (d) recommended timing of the control  
6 work. In those maintenance areas that encompass more than one noxious  
7 weed control board, the boards must coordinate their noxious weed  
8 priorities with the department in order to be eligible to participate  
9 in the pilot project;

10 (2) Within three weeks of receiving the list of priorities, the  
11 department shall provide the noxious weed control board with a plan to  
12 address the identified priorities that includes as a minimum: (a) The  
13 budget allocated for noxious weed control for the 1998 season in  
14 maintenance area three in the north central region and Ferry county of  
15 maintenance area four in the eastern region; (b) identified control  
16 methods; (c) timing of control work; (d) communication and response  
17 protocol procedures with the weed board; and (e) possible options for  
18 contracting portions of the work; and

19 (3) The local weed boards and the department shall prepare a plan.  
20 The plan shall govern the noxious weed control activities in these  
21 maintenance areas for the period beginning May 1, 1998, through the end  
22 of the 1998 control season.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of transportation shall  
24 submit a report that has been reviewed by and for which comments have  
25 been received from the participating local noxious weed control boards  
26 by December 1, 1998, to the legislative transportation committee  
27 reporting the results of the pilot project required in section 2 of  
28 this act.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
30 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
31 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
32 immediately.

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