
HOUSE BILL 2646

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representative Buck

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to the Columbia River Natural Resources Management
2 Compact; adding a new chapter to Title 75 RCW; and providing a
3 contingent effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A compact, in form as in this section fully
6 set forth, shall be in effect when the states of Idaho, Montana, and
7 Oregon become parties thereto, and the consent of congress has been
8 granted as required by Article I, section 10 of the United States
9 Constitution.

10 THE COLUMBIA RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COMPACT

11 The contracting states do hereby agree as follows:

12 ARTICLE I.

13 The purposes of this compact, entitled the Columbia River Natural
14 Resources Management Compact, are and shall be to promote the better
15 regional management and coordination of natural resources management
16 issues and other issues pertaining to the governance and use of the
17 Columbia river.

1 ARTICLE II.

2 This agreement shall become operative immediately as to those
3 states executing it whenever the compacting states have executed it in
4 the form that is in accordance with the laws of the executing states
5 and the congress has given its consent.

6 ARTICLE III.

7 Each state joining herein shall appoint, as determined by state
8 statutes, six legislators, three from the state senate and three from
9 the state house of representatives, to a commission hereby constituted
10 and designated as the Columbia River Governance Commission. Of the
11 members appointed, all may not belong to the same political party.
12 This commission shall be invested with the powers and duties set forth
13 herein.

14 The term of each commissioner of the Columbia River Governance
15 Commission shall be four years. A commissioner shall hold office until
16 a successor shall be appointed and qualified, but such successor's term
17 shall expire four years from legal date of expiration of the term of
18 the predecessor. Vacancies occurring in the office of such
19 commissioner from any reason or cause shall be filled for the unexpired
20 term, or a commissioner may be removed from office, as provided by the
21 statutes of the state concerned. Each commissioner may delegate in
22 writing from time to time, to a deputy, the power to be present and
23 participate, including voting as the representative or substitute, at
24 any meeting of or hearing by or other proceeding of the commission.

25 Voting powers under this compact shall be limited to one vote for
26 each state regardless of the number of representatives.

27 ARTICLE IV.

28 The duty of the Columbia River Governance Commission shall be to
29 assess programs of state and federal agencies responsible for natural
30 resource management issues and governance issues of the Columbia river
31 and to participate in decision making by federal agencies on issues
32 affecting the use of and activities on the Columbia river. The
33 commission shall have power to recommend the coordination of the
34 exercise of the police powers of the several states within their
35 respective jurisdictions to promote the efficient use and management of
36 the Columbia river and resources related to the Columbia river.

1 To that end the commission shall draft and, after consultation with
2 the advisory committee hereinafter authorized, recommend to the
3 governors and legislative branches of the various signatory states
4 hereto legislation dealing with the governance and management of the
5 Columbia river and the natural resources related to the Columbia river
6 over which the signatory states jointly or separately now have or may
7 hereafter acquire jurisdiction. The commission shall, more than one
8 month prior to any regular meeting of the legislative branch in any
9 state signatory hereto, present to the governor of such state its
10 recommendations relating to enactments by the legislative branch of
11 that state in furthering the intents and purposes of this compact.

12 The commission shall consult with and advise the pertinent
13 administrative agencies in the signatory states of such regulations as
14 it deems advisable with regard to problems connected with the
15 governance and use of the Columbia river and that lie within the
16 jurisdiction of such agencies.

17 The commission shall have power to recommend to the federal
18 government and to states signatory hereto management strategies for the
19 natural resources of the Columbia river and any changes to federal or
20 state statutes, regulations, or rules necessary to the efficient and
21 sound governance of the Columbia river and its natural resources.

22 ARTICLE V.

23 The commission shall elect from its number a chairperson and a
24 vice-chairperson and shall appoint and at its pleasure remove or
25 discharge such officers and employees as may be required to carry out
26 the provisions of this compact and shall fix and determine their
27 duties, qualifications, and compensation. Said commission shall adopt
28 rules and regulations for the conduct of its business. It may
29 establish and maintain one or more offices for the transaction of its
30 business and may meet at any time or place within the territorial
31 limits of the signatory states but must meet at least once a year.

32 ARTICLE VI.

33 No action shall be taken by the commission except by the
34 affirmative vote of a majority of the whole number of compacting states
35 represented at any meeting. No recommendation shall be made by the
36 commission in regard to the management of natural resources related to,
37 or the governance and use of, the Columbia river except by the vote of

1 a majority of the compacting states that have an interest in such
2 issues.

3 ARTICLE VII.

4 The natural resource agencies of the signatory states shall act in
5 collaboration as the official research agency of the Columbia River
6 Governance Commission.

7 An advisory committee to be representative of such other interests
8 of each state as the commission deems advisable shall be established by
9 the commission as soon as practicable for the purpose of advising the
10 commission upon such recommendations as it may desire to make.

11 ARTICLE VIII.

12 Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit the powers of
13 any state or to repeal or prevent the enactment of any legislation or
14 the enforcement of any requirement by any state imposing additional
15 conditions and restrictions to conserve its natural resources.

16 ARTICLE IX.

17 Continued absence of representation or of any representative on the
18 commission from any state party hereto shall be brought to the
19 attention of the governor thereof.

20 ARTICLE X.

21 The states that sign this compact agree to make available annual
22 funds for the support of the commission on the following basis:

23 Sixty percent of the annual budget shall be shared equally by those
24 member states having as a boundary the Columbia river; and forty
25 percent of the annual budget shall be shared equally by the other
26 member states.

27 The annual contribution of each member state shall be figured to
28 the nearest one hundred dollars.

29 This article shall become effective upon its enactment by the
30 states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington and upon ratification
31 by congress by virtue of the authority vested in it under Article I,
32 section 10 of the United States Constitution.

33 ARTICLE XI.

1 This compact shall continue in force and remain binding upon each
2 state until renounced by it. Renunciation of this compact must be
3 preceded by sending six months' written notice of intention to withdraw
4 from the compact to the other parties hereto.

5 ARTICLE XII.

6 The state of Nevada or any state having rivers or streams tributary
7 to the Columbia river may become a contracting state by enactment of
8 the Columbia River Natural Resources Management Compact. Upon
9 admission of any new state to the compact, the purposes of the compact
10 and the duties of the commission shall extend to the development of
11 joint programs for the use and governance of the Columbia river and its
12 natural resources in which the contracting states share mutual
13 concerns.

14 This article shall become effective upon its enactment by the
15 states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington and upon ratification
16 by congress by virtue of the authority vested in it under Article I,
17 section 10 of the United States Constitution.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of this act constitutes a new
19 chapter in Title 75 RCW.

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