

2 **2SHB 1752** - S COMM AMD

3 By Committee on Agriculture & International Trade

4

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "Sec. 1. RCW 77.36.005 and 1996 c 54 s 1 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 The legislature finds that:

10 (1) As the number of people in the state grows and wildlife habitat
11 is altered, people will encounter wildlife more frequently. As a
12 result, conflicts between humans and wildlife will also increase.
13 Wildlife is a public resource of significant value to the people of the
14 state and the responsibility to minimize and resolve these conflicts is
15 shared by all citizens of the state.

16 (2) In particular, the state recognizes the importance of
17 commercial agricultural and horticultural crop production, rangeland
18 suitable for grazing or browsing of domestic livestock, and the value
19 of healthy deer and elk populations, which can damage such crops. The
20 legislature further finds that damage prevention is key to maintaining
21 healthy deer and elk populations, wildlife-related recreational
22 opportunities, ~~((and))~~ commercially productive agricultural and
23 horticultural crops, and rangeland suitable for grazing or browsing of
24 domestic livestock, and that the state, participants in wildlife
25 recreation, and private landowners and tenants share the responsibility
26 for damage prevention. Toward this end, the legislature encourages
27 landowners and tenants to contribute through their land management
28 practices to healthy wildlife populations and to provide access for
29 related recreation. It is in the best interests of the state for the
30 department of fish and wildlife to respond quickly to wildlife damage
31 complaints and to work with these landowners and tenants to minimize
32 and/or prevent damages and conflicts while maintaining deer and elk
33 populations for enjoyment by all citizens of the state.

34 (3) A timely and simplified process for resolving claims for
35 damages caused by deer and elk for commercial agricultural or

1 horticultural products, and rangeland used for grazing or browsing of
2 domestic livestock is beneficial to the claimant and the state.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.36.010 and 1996 c 54 s 2 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 ~~((Unless otherwise specified,))~~ The ~~((following))~~ definitions in
6 this section apply throughout this chapter~~((+))~~ unless the context
7 clearly requires otherwise.

8 (1) "Crop" means ~~((a commercially raised horticultural and/or~~
9 ~~agricultural product and includes growing or harvested product but does~~
10 ~~not include livestock))~~ (a) a growing or harvested horticultural and/or
11 agricultural product for commercial purposes; or (b) rangeland forage
12 on privately owned land used for grazing or browsing of domestic
13 livestock for at least a portion of the year for commercial purposes.
14 For the purposes of this chapter all parts of horticultural trees shall
15 be considered a crop and shall be eligible for claims.

16 (2) "Emergency" means an unforeseen circumstance beyond the control
17 of the landowner or tenant that presents a real and immediate threat to
18 crops, domestic animals, or fowl.

19 (3) "Immediate family member" means spouse, brother, sister,
20 grandparent, parent, child, or grandchild.

21 **Sec. 3.** RCW 77.36.080 and 1996 c 54 s 9 are each amended to read
22 as follows:

23 (1) The department may pay no more than thirty thousand dollars per
24 fiscal year from the general fund for claims under RCW 77.36.040 and
25 for assessment costs and compromise of claims unless the legislature
26 declares an emergency. Such money shall be used to pay animal damage
27 claims only if the claim meets the conditions of RCW 77.36.040 and the
28 damage occurred in a place where the opportunity to hunt was restricted
29 or prohibited by a county, municipality, or other public entity during
30 the season prior to the occurrence of the damage.

31 (2) The legislature may declare an emergency, defined for the
32 purposes of this section as any happening arising from weather, other
33 natural conditions, or fire that causes unusually great damage by deer
34 or elk to commercially raised agricultural or horticultural crops ~~((by~~
35 ~~deer or elk))~~, or rangeland forage on privately owned land used for
36 grazing or browsing of domestic livestock for at least a portion of the
37 year. In an emergency, the department may pay as much as may be

1 subsequently appropriated, in addition to the funds authorized under
2 subsection (1) of this section, for claims under RCW 77.36.040 and for
3 assessment and compromise of claims. Such money shall be used to pay
4 animal damage claims only if the claim meets the conditions of RCW
5 77.36.040 and the department has expended all funds authorized under
6 RCW 77.36.070 or subsection (1) of this section.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
9 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
10 July 1, 2001."

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14 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "livestock;" strike the
15 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 77.36.005, 77.36.010,
16 and 77.36.080; providing an effective date; and declaring an
17 emergency."

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