

---

HOUSE BILL 2294

---

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Hatfield, Doumit, Kessler, Eickmeyer, Lantz, Rockefeller, Wood, Mielke, Boldt, Benson, Edwards, Upthegrove and Dunn

Read first time 01/14/2002. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to recreation sites owned by the department of  
2 natural resources; and adding new sections to chapter 43.30 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.30 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature recognizes that the department of natural  
7 resources makes recreation sites available to the public and that many  
8 of these sites are primitive in nature. The legislature finds that the  
9 department lacks the necessary staff and money to maintain these  
10 recreation sites despite their primitive nature, and that a number of  
11 these recreation sites are at risk of closing. The legislature also  
12 finds that the state adopt-a-highway program under the department of  
13 transportation has been successful in attracting volunteers to help  
14 keep the roadsides clean. The legislature finds that by providing  
15 expanded opportunities for participation by volunteers at recreation  
16 sites operated by the department of natural resources, the state will  
17 save money and be able to keep some recreation sites open that would  
18 otherwise close, and there will be expanded community service

1 opportunities for youth groups, other civic organizations, and  
2 businesses.

3 (2) The department of natural resources shall conduct a periodic  
4 review of all of its recreation sites. The review shall include an  
5 examination of the location of the recreation sites and a determination  
6 of the costs associated with the recreation sites. The initial review  
7 of its recreation sites shall be completed by December 1, 2002. If a  
8 recreation site is determined by the department as appropriate to keep  
9 open but the site is being considered for closure due to insufficient  
10 funds, before the department may close the recreation site it must hold  
11 a public meeting in the general vicinity of the recreation site to  
12 determine whether there are sufficient volunteers available on an  
13 ongoing basis to justify keeping the recreation site open.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.30 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) The department shall seek partnerships with volunteer groups  
17 and businesses to establish a recreation site volunteer program to  
18 facilitate the goals of this section and section 1 of this act. The  
19 department may solicit funding for a recreation site volunteer program  
20 and allow private entities to undertake all or a portion of financing  
21 for the initiatives. The department shall develop guidelines regarding  
22 labor, cash, and in-kind contributions to be performed by volunteers.

23 (2) The department of natural resources may enter into agreements  
24 with other state agencies, units of local government, nonprofit  
25 organizations, and businesses to perform necessary maintenance and  
26 repair of recreation sites, and to coordinate volunteers working at  
27 these recreation sites.

28 (3) The department shall develop a standardized application form,  
29 registration form, and contractual agreement for all participating  
30 groups. The department shall develop guidelines for: The minimum age  
31 of participants, the minimum ratio of adult supervisors for different  
32 size groups of minors, any requisite safety training or safety  
33 equipment, the maintaining of records of any accidents or injuries that  
34 occur, and anything else deemed necessary to implement this program.  
35 The department shall require parental consent for participation of all  
36 minors.

37 (4) A volunteer group or business interested in participating in a  
38 recreation site volunteer program must submit a proposal to the

1 department. The department shall review the proposal for consistency  
2 with its policies and guidelines. The department may accept, reject,  
3 or propose a modification to the proposed application.

4 (5) A volunteer performing any authorized or assigned work at a  
5 recreation site is considered a state employee for the purpose of  
6 receiving medical aid benefits under chapter 51.36 RCW, and the  
7 department shall pay any and all premiums or assessments under RCW  
8 51.12.035 to secure these benefits. A participating business must pay  
9 all employer premiums and assessments required under chapter 51.36 RCW  
10 to secure medical aid for all employees or agents participating in the  
11 program.

12 (6) Nothing in this section or section 1 of this act creates any  
13 right of appeal under chapter 34.05 RCW regarding the closure of a  
14 recreation site.

--- END ---