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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5024

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines  
(originally sponsored by Senators Jacobsen, Oke and Carlson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to policies of the parks and recreation  
2 commission; adding a new section to chapter 79A.05 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) All lands known as public parks and parkways, and  
7 recreational, natural, cultural, and historic sites are unique  
8 public treasures preserved for the benefit, vitality, and  
9 enjoyment of the public; and

10 (b) All lands administered by the state parks and recreation  
11 commission are significant to the state of Washington, requiring  
12 thoughtful stewardship and appropriate use to ensure their  
13 preservation for and availability to future generations; and

14 (c) All of the public ought to be able to enjoy these lands  
15 without any sort of fee for basic parkland access, including day  
16 use fees and daytime parking fees. Basic parkland access fees are  
17 not conducive to maximizing public access to these lands which all

1 members of the public have helped to pay for. Automobile parking  
2 fees also encourage park visitors to park on neighboring land,  
3 causing disruption to citizens that are located near parks.

4 (2) Based on the foregoing, the legislature declares that it is  
5 the mission of the commission to acquire, operate, enhance, and  
6 protect a diverse system of recreational, cultural, historic, and  
7 natural sites, and foster outdoor recreation and environmental  
8 education statewide to provide enjoyment and enrichment for all, a  
9 valued legacy to future generations, and perpetuate the character  
10 and culture of the citizenry.

11 (3) Towards these ends, in addition to the policies set forth  
12 in RCW 79A.05.305, the state parks and recreation commission,  
13 using its own resources and through partnerships with private and  
14 public entities shall:

15 (a) Protect and preserve natural, recreational, cultural, and  
16 historical resources of significance to the state;

17 (b) Foster public enjoyment, understanding, appreciation, and  
18 safe use of these resources through education;

19 (c) Host a wide range of public recreation experiences to renew  
20 the human spirit;

21 (d) Welcome visitors from all cultural, ethnic, and social  
22 backgrounds, as well as seniors, youth, and the physically and  
23 mentally challenged;

24 (e) Provide safe, attractive, high-quality facilities and  
25 programs to those who use the state's park system;

26 (f) Promote state and community tourism and economic vitality;  
27 and

28 (g) Ensure that parks are open to all individuals, regardless  
29 of means, by not charging any sort of fee for basic parkland  
30 access including daytime parking fees, except that the commission  
31 may charge a boat moorage fee.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 79A.05  
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 In addition to other duties the commission may from time to  
35 time impose, it is the duty of the director to, on or before  
36 December 1st of each even-numbered year, provide to the

1 legislature a comprehensive summary report of all state parks and  
2 recreation operations to reflect the previous fiscal period.

3 (1) The summary report shall include, but not be limited to,  
4 descriptions of all department activities including: Revenues  
5 generated, program costs, capital expenditures, personnel, special  
6 projects, condition of the infrastructure, new and ongoing  
7 research, environmental controls, cooperative projects,  
8 intergovernmental agreements, outlines of ongoing litigation, and  
9 recent court decisions and orders on major issues with the  
10 potential for state liability.

11 (2) The summary report shall describe the operation of the park  
12 system including park utilization details and trends,  
13 opportunities to improve services, and public desires for new  
14 services.

15 (3) The summary report may include other information and  
16 recommendations as the director deems useful.

17 (4) The summary report must be delivered to the chairs of the  
18 following legislative committees or their successor committees:

19 (a) Senate natural resources, parks, and shorelines;

20 (b) Senate ways and means;

21 (c) Senate transportation;

22 (d) House natural resources;

23 (e) House appropriations;

24 (f) House capital budget; and

25 (g) House transportation.

26 (5) One copy of the summary report must also be delivered to  
27 the staff of each of the committees. The summary report must be  
28 made available to the public.

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