

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1799**

Chapter 408, Laws of 2005

(partial veto)

59th Legislature  
2005 Regular Session

PUBLIC RECREATIONAL LANDS AND PUBLIC SAFETY--TASK FORCE

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/24/05

Passed by the House April 19, 2005  
Yeas 64 Nays 34

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 8, 2005  
Yeas 43 Nays 4

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Approved May 11, 2005, with the  
exception of Section 1, which is vetoed.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1799** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

RICHARD NAFZIGER

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

May 11, 2005 - 2:17 p.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1799

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2005 Regular Session

State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections (originally sponsored by Representatives B. Sullivan and Upthegrove)

READ FIRST TIME 03/04/05.

1            AN ACT Relating to park rangers employed by the state parks and  
2 recreation commission; creating new sections; and providing an  
3 expiration date.

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

5            ***\*NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature finds that law enforcement***  
6 ***functions at state parks and lands are insufficient to adequately***  
7 ***protect the public and our natural resources. Threats to the safety of***  
8 ***the visiting public and public lands are not necessarily confined to***  
9 ***the boundaries of state parks and lands. State law does not expressly***  
10 ***grant or deny park rangers the authority to engage in law enforcement***  
11 ***activities outside of park and land boundaries. Further, the***  
12 ***legislature finds that, in many areas of the state, other state or***  
13 ***local law enforcement officers are either too far away or understaffed***  
14 ***to provide adequate support to on-site law enforcement professionals in***  
15 ***emergency situations. The legislature finds that a comprehensive***  
16 ***review of the role and responsibilities of law enforcement***  
17 ***professionals within and around state parks and lands is necessary to***  
18 ***ensure the value of state parks and natural resources is not***  
19 ***diminished.***

*\*Sec. 1 was vetoed. See message at end of chapter.*

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1)    The task force on state public  
2 recreational lands and public safety is created. The task force shall  
3 be comprised of twelve members appointed as follows:

4        (a) Two members of the house of representatives, one from each  
5 major caucus, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of  
6 representatives;

7        (b) Two members of the senate, one from each major caucus, to be  
8 appointed by the president of the senate;

9        (c) The commissioner of public lands or his or her designee;

10       (d) The chair of the Washington state parks and recreation  
11 commission or his or her designee;

12       (e) The chair of the Washington fish and wildlife commission or his  
13 or her designee;

14       (f) Five members, to be appointed jointly by the speaker of the  
15 house of representatives and the president of the senate, from  
16 nominations submitted by the following organizations:

17       (i) One representative of the Washington association of sheriffs  
18 and police chiefs;

19       (ii) One representative of the Washington state council of police  
20 and sheriffs;

21       (iii) One representative of the Washington association of  
22 prosecuting attorneys;

23       (iv) One representative park ranger who is an active member of the  
24 recognized employee bargaining unit and who is employed by the  
25 Washington state parks and recreation commission; and

26       (v) One recognized employee representative of enforcement officers  
27 with the department of natural resources.

28       (2) The task force members shall elect a chair and determine its  
29 operating procedures. The task force shall be jointly staffed by the  
30 office of program research and senate committee services as determined  
31 by their respective staff directors.

32       (a) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for  
33 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
34 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are  
35 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW  
36 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

37       (b) The compensable travel expenses as provided in (a) of this

1 subsection shall be paid jointly by the senate and the house of  
2 representatives.

3 (3) This section expires January 1, 2006.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The task force shall conduct a comprehensive  
5 review of law enforcement issues in and around state parks and lands,  
6 including but not limited to:

7 (1) The extent to which illegal activity in and around state parks  
8 and lands threatens public safety and natural resources; and

9 (2) The ability of the current state and local law enforcement to  
10 respond to illegal activity on or near public recreational lands.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** By December 15, 2005, the task force shall  
12 provide a final report of its recommendations, including any draft  
13 legislation to implement the recommendations. The report shall be  
14 submitted to the chief clerk of the house of representatives and the  
15 secretary of the senate.

Passed by the House April 19, 2005.

Passed by the Senate April 8, 2005.

Approved by the Governor May 11, 2005, with the exception of  
certain items that were vetoed.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 11, 2005.

Note: Governor's explanation of partial veto is as follows:

"I am returning, without my approval as to Section 1, Engrossed  
Substitute House Bill No. 1799 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to park rangers employed by the state parks and  
recreation commission."

Section 1 of Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1799 states the  
Legislature's finding that "law enforcement functions at state parks  
and lands are insufficient to adequately protect the public and our  
natural resources." I agree that the safety of people, property, and  
natural resources on our public lands is important, and that more can  
be done to improve safety. But I have high regard for our park  
rangers and others who enforce the laws and protect our public lands,  
and do not believe the Legislature's conclusion is warranted. I am  
also concerned such language, while not so intended, could be misused  
to increase taxpayers' liability for harm that should be the  
responsibility of those who violate our laws.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Section 1 of Engrossed Substitute  
House Bill No. 1799.

With the exception of Section 1, Engrossed Substitute House Bill No.  
1799 is approved."