
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6212

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation (originally sponsored by Senators Jacobsen, Morton, Fraser, Rockefeller, Hatfield, Swecker, Parlette, Shin, Rasmussen, Spanel, and Kohl-Welles; by request of Department of Natural Resources)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a work group to make
2 recommendations for improving recreation on state trust lands, aquatic
3 lands, and other state-owned lands managed by the department of natural
4 resources; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that recreational
7 opportunities are instrumental in promoting human health and well-being
8 and are part of the heritage of Washington state. State trust lands,
9 aquatic lands, and other state-owned lands managed by the department of
10 natural resources provide significant recreational opportunities, along
11 with other social, economic, and environmental benefits. Lands managed
12 by the department of natural resources provide, among other values:

- 13 (a) Renewable energy resources;
14 (b) Sustainable revenue for school construction, local governments,
15 and other state institutions;
16 (c) Recreational and educational opportunities;
17 (d) Habitat for fish and wildlife;
18 (e) Clean air and water; and

1 (f) Funding for restoration and public access to state-owned
2 aquatic lands.

3 (2) The legislature further finds that the state's population has
4 nearly doubled from three million four hundred thousand to six million
5 five hundred thousand since the multiple use concept was adopted under
6 chapter 79.10 RCW, and is projected to increase by another two million
7 two hundred thousand by 2030. Population growth has increased demand
8 for recreational access and presents current and future challenges that
9 must be addressed, such as: Increasing potential for conflict with
10 adjacent and nearby land uses, including residential land uses; new
11 forms of trail-based recreation that compete with traditional uses; the
12 rapid increase of motorized and mechanized recreation; changes in
13 ownership patterns of large land holdings across the state; the
14 incompatibility of certain human activities with environmental
15 protections for endangered species, clean water, clean air, climate
16 impacting emissions, and habitat; and increased competition for
17 funding.

18 (3) The legislature further finds that efforts by the department of
19 natural resources to consolidate state trust lands will provide more
20 opportunities for citizens to access larger blocks of state-owned
21 lands. Therefore, it is prudent to reexamine the policies for
22 recreational access on state-owned lands and establish a vision for the
23 future with recommended policy improvements that are:

- 24 (a) Environmentally responsible;
- 25 (b) Sustainably funded; and
- 26 (c) Compatible with trust land and state land management
27 obligations.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A work group is established to make
29 recommendations to improve recreation on state trust lands, aquatic
30 lands, and other state-owned lands managed by the department of natural
31 resources.

32 (2) The work group's recommendations to improve recreation on
33 state-owned lands must be compatible with adjacent and nearby land
34 uses, including residential land uses. The work group shall examine
35 relevant existing laws and rules and recommend policy changes and
36 funding alternatives for consideration by the legislature to ensure
37 safe, sustainable, and enjoyable recreational access. In conducting

1 this work, the work group must consider: The legal obligations for
2 trusts, aquatic lands, and natural areas; consistency with
3 environmental standards needed to protect lands and natural systems;
4 and related work group recommendations such as the Puget Sound action
5 agenda defined in chapter 90.71 RCW, the Washington biodiversity
6 strategy created in executive order 04-02, and the invasive species
7 council recommendations defined in chapter 79A.25 RCW. The work group
8 must provide recommendations on ways to coordinate trail maintenance
9 work with volunteer organizations on state-owned lands.

10 (3) The work group is comprised of a balanced representation of
11 individuals with recreational interests and knowledge regarding
12 specific regions of the state. The work group must consist of no more
13 than twenty-eight members appointed by the commissioner of public lands
14 in consultation with the following entities:

- 15 (a) Recreational associations and organizations;
- 16 (b) Environmental protection associations and organizations;
- 17 (c) Corporate and community leaders;
- 18 (d) Major landowners;
- 19 (e) Local governments;
- 20 (f) Tribal governments;
- 21 (g) The United States forest service;
- 22 (h) The parks and recreation commission;
- 23 (i) The recreation and conservation office;
- 24 (j) The department of fish and wildlife;
- 25 (k) State trust land beneficiaries;
- 26 (l) State land leaseholders and contractors;
- 27 (m) A representative of the governor, appointed by the governor;

28 and

29 (n) Members of the senate and house of representatives, as
30 appointed by the legislature.

31 (4) The commissioner of public lands, or the commissioner's
32 designee, shall serve as chair, and the department of natural resources
33 shall provide technical and staff support for the work group created by
34 this section.

35 (5) Work group members shall be compensated as provided in RCW
36 43.03.250 and shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses as
37 provided by RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Costs associated with the

1 work group must be paid by the department of natural resources from the
2 general fund appropriation made available to the department of natural
3 resources.

4 (6) The work group shall conduct a minimum of two open public
5 workshops to solicit input from key stakeholders, citizens, and local
6 jurisdictions, at least one of which must be conducted in a location
7 east of the crest of the Cascade mountain range.

8 (7) The work group shall hold meetings, at diverse locations
9 throughout the state, to gather input from key stakeholders, citizens,
10 and local jurisdictions regarding the group's proposed recommendations.

11 (8) The work group shall coordinate with the stakeholder
12 recreational advisory committees appointed or established by the
13 commissioner of public lands.

14 (9) The commissioner of public lands shall submit to the
15 appropriate standing committees of the legislature, no later than
16 December 1, 2008, its findings and recommendations for legislation that
17 is necessary to implement the work group's findings.

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