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SENATE BILL 5481

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Pflug, Murray, and Swecker

Read first time 01/26/11. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Marine Waters.

1 AN ACT Relating to encouraging the development of natural resources  
2 related partnerships; adding new sections to chapter 79A.25 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that increasing the  
6 use of public-private and public-public partnerships between the  
7 state's natural resources agencies and private sector and other public  
8 sector agencies provides a significant opportunity to increase  
9 efficiency, reduce agency costs, encourage innovation and enterprise,  
10 and develop partnerships that will benefit the people of Washington in  
11 this time of limited state resources by preserving access to  
12 recreational opportunities on state lands as well as key services  
13 performed by natural resources agencies.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 79A.25 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) The natural resources partnership office is created in order to  
17 identify and facilitate the development of opportunities for public-  
18 private and public-public partnerships with a substantial likelihood to

1 increase efficiency or reduce costs in order to facilitate the  
2 preservation of access to recreational opportunities on state lands as  
3 well as key services performed by natural resources agencies.

4 (2) For administrative purposes, the natural resources partnership  
5 office is located within the recreation and conservation office. The  
6 staff of the natural resources partnership office may consist of no  
7 more than two full-time equivalent positions.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 79A.25 RCW  
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) The natural resources partnership office shall:

11 (a) Work cooperatively with the department of natural resources,  
12 the department of fish and wildlife, and the state parks and recreation  
13 commission in order to identify and evaluate the current utilization of  
14 public-private and public-public partnerships in the management of the  
15 state's natural resources;

16 (b) Make recommendations to the department of natural resources,  
17 the department of fish and wildlife, and the state parks and recreation  
18 commission on specific functions, activities, and services for which a  
19 partnership is likely to facilitate achievement of one or more of the  
20 goals stated in section 2(1) of this act;

21 (c) Serve as a resource for the department of natural resources,  
22 the department of fish and wildlife, and the state parks and recreation  
23 commission to facilitate the use of partnerships in the management of  
24 the state's natural resources, including working with relevant state  
25 agencies to assist the natural resources agencies to resolve personnel,  
26 contract, and issues relating to such partnerships, and by serving as  
27 a liaison to potential private and public sector partners; and

28 (d) By December 1st of each year, provide a summary report to the  
29 appropriate standing committees of the legislature containing  
30 information including:

31 (i) The current utilization of partnerships in the management of  
32 the state's natural resources, including outcomes resulting from such  
33 partnerships;

34 (ii) Recommendations made that year under (b) of this subsection,  
35 including anticipated outcomes resulting from such recommendations; and

36 (iii) Any recommended statutory changes in order to facilitate the  
37 use and effectiveness of partnerships.

1           (2) The department of natural resources, the department of fish and  
2 wildlife, and the state parks and recreation commission shall:

3           (a) Work cooperatively with the natural resources partnership  
4 office as it carries out its duties under subsection (1) of this  
5 section, including providing information relevant to inquiries from the  
6 office; and

7           (b) Implement the recommendations of the natural resources  
8 partnership office under subsection (1)(b) of this section.

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