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SENATE BILL 6385

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Parlette, Fraser, Morton, Ranker, and Shin

Read first time 01/19/12. Referred to Committee on Energy, Natural Resources & Marine Waters.

1 AN ACT Relating to extending the habitat and recreation lands  
2 coordinating group until July 31, 2017; amending RCW 79A.25.260;  
3 creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 79A.25.260 and 2007 c 247 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) The habitat and recreation lands coordinating group is  
8 established. The ((~~habitat and recreation lands coordinating~~)) group  
9 must include representatives from the ((~~committee~~)) office, the state  
10 parks and recreation commission, the department of natural resources,  
11 and the ((~~Washington state~~)) department of fish and wildlife. The  
12 members of the ((~~habitat and recreation lands coordinating~~)) group must  
13 have subject matter expertise with the issues presented in this  
14 section. Representatives from appropriate stakeholder organizations  
15 and local government must also be considered for participation on the  
16 ((~~habitat and recreation lands coordinating~~)) group, but may only be  
17 appointed or invited by the director.

18 (2) To ensure timely completion of the duties assigned to the

1 (~~habitat and recreation lands coordinating~~) group, the director shall  
2 submit yearly progress reports to the office of financial management.

3 (3) The (~~habitat and recreation lands coordinating~~) group must:

4 (a) Review agency land acquisition and disposal plans and policies  
5 to help ensure statewide coordination of habitat and recreation land  
6 acquisitions and disposals;

7 (b) Produce an interagency, statewide biennial forecast of habitat  
8 and recreation land (~~acquisitions [acquisition]~~) acquisition and  
9 disposal plans;

10 (c) Establish procedures for publishing the biennial forecast of  
11 acquisition and disposal plans on web sites or other centralized,  
12 easily accessible formats;

13 (d) Develop and convene an annual forum for agencies to coordinate  
14 their near-term acquisition and disposal plans;

15 (e) Develop a recommended method for interagency geographic  
16 information system-based documentation of habitat and recreation lands  
17 in cooperation with other state agencies using geographic information  
18 systems;

19 (f) Develop recommendations for standardization of acquisition and  
20 disposal recordkeeping, including identifying a preferred process for  
21 centralizing acquisition data;

22 (g) Develop an approach for monitoring the success of acquisitions;

23 (h) Identify and commence a dialogue with key state and federal  
24 partners to develop an inventory of potential public lands for transfer  
25 into habitat and recreation land management status; and

26 (i) Review existing and proposed habitat conservation plans on a  
27 regular basis to foster statewide coordination and save costs.

28 (4) If prioritization among the various requirements of subsection  
29 (3) of this section is necessary due to the availability of resources,  
30 the group shall prioritize implementation of subsection (3)(a) through  
31 (d) and (g) of this section.

32 (5) The group shall revisit the (~~committee's and Washington~~  
33 ~~wildlife and recreation program's~~) planning requirements of relevant  
34 grant programs administered by the office to determine whether  
35 coordination of state agency habitat and recreation land acquisition  
36 and disposal could be improved by modifying those requirements.

37 ((+5)) (6) The group must develop options for centralizing

1 coordination of habitat and recreation land acquisition made with funds  
2 from federal grants. The advantages and drawbacks of the following  
3 options, at a minimum, must be developed:

4 (a) Requiring that agencies provide early communication on the  
5 status of federal grant applications to the ~~((committee))~~ office, the  
6 office of financial management, or directly to the legislature;

7 (b) Establishing a centralized pass-through agency for federal  
8 funds, where individual agencies would be the primary applicants.

9 ~~((+6))~~ (7) This section expires July 31, ~~((2012))~~ 2017. Prior to  
10 January 1, ~~((2012))~~ 2017, the ~~((committee))~~ group shall make a formal  
11 recommendation to the board and the appropriate committees of the  
12 legislature as to whether the existence of the habitat and recreation  
13 lands coordinating group should be continued beyond July 31, ~~((2012))~~  
14 2017, and if so, whether any modifications to its enabling statute  
15 should be pursued. ~~((The committee shall involve all participants in  
16 the habitat and recreation lands coordinating group when developing the  
17 recommendations.))~~

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The legislature finds that participation by  
19 the state's habitat and recreation land management agencies in the  
20 habitat and recreation lands coordinating group is an inherent part of  
21 transparent, efficient, and effective state habitat and recreation land  
22 management, and must be conducted within existing resources.

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