CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2928

64th Legislature
2016 Regular Session

Passed by the House March 10, 2016
Yeas 96  Nays 1

Passed by the Senate March 9, 2016
Yeas 49  Nays 0

Certification of Enrollment

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2928 as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

Secretary of State
State of Washington
AN ACT Relating to ensuring that restrictions on outdoor burning for air quality reasons do not impede measures necessary to ensure forest resiliency to catastrophic fires; creating a new section; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. (1) The department of natural resources shall conduct a forest resiliency burning pilot project. The goal of the pilot project is to monitor and evaluate the benefits of forest resiliency burning and the impacts on ambient air quality. The department of natural resources is responsible for establishing the processes and procedures necessary to administer the pilot project, including the review and approval of qualifying forest resiliency burning proposals. The department of natural resources may consider forest resiliency burning proposals that include treatments to reduce fuel loads prior to burning, including the thinning of forest stands and grazing to clear brush.

(2)(a) The department of natural resources must, as the primary focus of the pilot project, arrange with interested third parties to perform forest resiliency burning on land prone to forest or wildland fires in coordination with the following forest health collaboratives as recognized by the United States forest service:
(i) North Central Washington forest health collaborative;
(ii) Northeast Washington forestry collaborative; and
(iii) Tapash sustainable forest collaborative.

(b) The department of natural resources must also coordinate with
at least one organized group of public agencies and interested
stakeholders whose purpose is to protect, conserve, and expand the
safe and responsible use of prescribed fire on the Washington
landscape.

(3)(a) The department of natural resources must, as part of the
pilot project, approve single day or multiple day forest resiliency
burns if the burning is unlikely to significantly contribute to an
exceedance of air quality standards established by chapter 70.94 RCW.
Once approved, forest resiliency burns spanning multiple days may
only be revoked or postponed midway through the duration of the
approved burn if necessary for the safety of adjacent property or
upon a determination by the department of natural resources or the
department of ecology that the burn has significantly contributed to
an exceedance of air quality standards under chapter 70.94 RCW.

(b) The department of natural resources must approve burns at
least twenty-four hours prior to ignition of the fire.

(4) Forest resiliency burning, when conducted under the pilot
project authorized by this section, is not subject to the outdoor
burning restrictions in RCW 70.94.6512(2) and 70.94.6514.

(5) The implementation of the pilot project authorized in this
section is not:

(a) Intended to require the department of natural resources to
update the smoke management plan defined in RCW 70.94.6536. However,
information obtained through the pilot project's implementation may
be used to inform any future updates to the smoke management plan;
and

(b) Subject to the provisions of chapter 43.21C RCW.

(6) Forest resiliency burning, and the implementation of the
pilot project authorized in this section, must not be conducted at a
scale that would require a revision to the state implementation plan
under the federal clean air act.

(7) The department of natural resources shall submit a report to
the legislature, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, by December 1, 2018.
The report must include information and analyses regarding the
following elements:
(a) The amount of forest resiliency burns proposed, approved, and conducted;
(b) The quantity and severity of air quality exceedances by pollutant type;
(c) A comparative analysis between the predicted smoke conditions and the actual smoke conditions observed on location by qualified meteorological personnel or trained prescribed burning professionals during the forest resiliency burn; and
(d) Recommendations relating to continuing or expanding forest resiliency burning and creating forest resiliency burning as a new type of outdoor burning permitted by the department of natural resources.
(8) The report to the legislature required by this section may include recommendations for the updating of the smoke management plan defined in RCW 70.94.6536.
(9) For the purposes of this section, "forest resiliency burning" means silvicultural burning carried out under the supervision of qualified silvicultural, ecological, or fire management professionals and used to improve fire dependent ecosystems, mitigate wildfire potential, decrease forest susceptibility to forest insect or disease as defined in RCW 76.06.020, or otherwise enhance forest resiliency to fire.
(10) This section expires July 1, 2019.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately.

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