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**HOUSE BILL 1894**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Dent and Griffey

Read first time 02/04/19. Referred to Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to additional temporary duties for the wildland  
2 fire advisory committee; and amending 2018 c 227 s 1 (uncodified).

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

4 **Sec. 1.** 2018 c 227 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 (1) Subject to amounts appropriated for this specific purpose,  
7 the commissioner of public lands must direct the wildland fire  
8 advisory committee established in RCW 76.04.179 to review, analyze,  
9 and make recommendations on the following issues related to wild fire  
10 prevention, response, and suppression activities within our state:

11 (a) The committee, with the assistance of department of natural  
12 resources' personnel, must approximately quantify the areas in the  
13 state that are not contained within an established fire district nor  
14 subject to a planned fire response and make recommendations as to how  
15 these areas could be protected as well as a source of funding for any  
16 recommended activities. In doing so, the committee must, in time for  
17 inclusion in the December 31, 2018, status report: Review the  
18 relevant recommendations contained in the joint legislative audit and  
19 review committee's 2017 final report on fees assessed for forest fire  
20 protection; analyze and develop recommendations on potential  
21 administrative and legislative actions including, for example, the

1 process proposed in chapter . . . (Substitute Senate Bill No. 6575),  
2 Laws of 2018; and consult with any relevant stakeholders, as deemed  
3 necessary by the committee, that are not represented on the  
4 committee.

5 (b) The committee must examine the value of community programs  
6 that educate homeowners and engage in preventive projects within wild  
7 fire risk communities, such as firewise, and make recommendations on  
8 whether these programs should be advanced, and if so, how, including  
9 potential sources of ongoing funding for the programs.

10 (c) The committee must also develop plans to help protect non-  
11 English speaking residents during wildfire emergencies. The committee  
12 may enlist the assistance from the state ethnic and diversity  
13 commissions or any other organizations who have expertise in public  
14 outreach to non-English speaking people.

15 (2) The department of natural resources must provide to the  
16 appropriate committees of the legislature a status report of the  
17 committee's efforts by December 31, 2018, and issue a report with the  
18 committee's recommendations by November 15, 2019.

19 (3) In addition to the topics described in subsection (1) of this  
20 section, as part of the final report as required by subsection (2) of  
21 this section, and subject to the availability of amounts appropriated  
22 for this specific purpose, the wildland fire advisory committee must  
23 review, analyze, and make recommendations on the following issues  
24 related to the establishment of rangeland fire protection  
25 associations and other fire protection methods within our state to  
26 address unprotected and underprotected lands.

27 (a) The committee, with the assistance of department of natural  
28 resources' personnel, must map areas of the state east of the crest  
29 of the Cascade mountains that are not within an established fire  
30 protection district, nor subject to a planned wildland fire response.

31 (b) The committee, through consultation with landowners, local  
32 fire protection districts, wildfire protection agencies, and other  
33 interested parties, must identify and make recommendations as to  
34 which methods of protection may be best suited for these areas when  
35 considering values at risk, including wildlife habitat, available  
36 response resources, and geography in the area. Methods of protection  
37 may include, but are not limited to, annexation by adjacent fire  
38 protection districts, creation of new fire protection districts, and  
39 the broadening of the jurisdiction of the department of natural  
40 resources.

1       (c) The committee must make recommendations on the appropriate  
2 level of training and the personal protective equipment standards for  
3 rangeland fire protection associations.

4       (d) The committee must make an estimate of the costs to establish  
5 and maintain rangeland fire protection associations. In addition, the  
6 committee must make recommendations for appropriate fees to support  
7 the various identified methods of protection, including increasing  
8 fire protection district levies and fees collected by the department  
9 of natural resources.

10       (4) This section expires December 31, 2019.

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