
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2697

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By House Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources
(originally sponsored by Representatives Dent, Blake, Dye, Springer,
Boehnke, Callan, and Chandler)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to noxious weeds; and amending RCW 17.10.010,
2 17.10.030, 17.10.050, 17.10.060, 17.10.070, 17.10.074, 17.10.100,
3 17.10.140, 17.10.145, 17.10.205, 17.10.235, 17.10.240, and 17.10.890.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 17.10.010 and 1997 c 353 s 2 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
8 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

9 (1) "Noxious weed" means a plant that when established is highly
10 destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or
11 chemical practices.

12 (2) "State noxious weed list" means a list of noxious weeds
13 adopted by the state noxious weed control board. The list is divided
14 into three classes:

15 (a) Class A consists of those noxious weeds not native to the
16 state that are of limited distribution or are unrecorded in the state
17 and that pose a serious threat to the state;

18 (b) Class B consists of those noxious weeds not native to the
19 state that are of limited distribution or are unrecorded in a region
20 of the state and that pose a serious threat to that region;

1 (c) Class C consists of any other nonnative to Washington state
2 noxious weeds.

3 (3) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation,
4 firm, the state or any department, agency, or subdivision thereof, or
5 any other entity.

6 (4) "Owner" means the person in actual control of property
7 including, but not limited to, deeded parcels, and undefined lots, or
8 his or her agent, whether the control is based on legal or equitable
9 title or on any other interest entitling the holder to possession
10 and, for purposes of liability, pursuant to RCW 17.10.170 or
11 17.10.210, means the possessor of legal or equitable title or the
12 possessor of an easement: PROVIDED, That when the possessor of an
13 easement has the right to control or limit the growth of vegetation
14 within the boundaries of an easement, only the possessor of the
15 easement is deemed, for the purpose of this chapter, an "owner" of
16 the property within the boundaries of the easement.

17 (5) As pertains to the duty of an owner, the words "control",
18 "contain", "eradicate", and the term "prevent the spread of noxious
19 weeds" means conforming to the standards of noxious weed control or
20 prevention in this chapter or as adopted by rule in chapter 16-750
21 WAC by the state noxious weed control board and an activated county
22 noxious weed control board.

23 (6) "Agent" means any occupant or any other person acting for the
24 owner and working or in charge of the land.

25 (7) "Agricultural purposes" are those that are intended to
26 provide for the growth and harvest of food and fiber.

27 (8) "Director" means the director of the department of
28 agriculture or the director's appointed representative.

29 (9) "Weed district" means a weed district as defined in chapters
30 17.04 and 17.06 RCW.

31 (10) "Aquatic noxious weed" means an aquatic plant species that
32 is listed on the state weed list under RCW 17.10.080.

33 (11) "Screenings" means a mixture of mill or elevator run mixture
34 or a combination of varying amounts of materials obtained in the
35 process of cleaning either grain or seeds, or both, such as light or
36 broken grain or seed, weed seeds, hulls, chaff, joints, straw,
37 elevator dust, floor sweepings, sand, and dirt.

38 (12) "Parcel" means real property having a parcel number or
39 deeded real property, undefined lot, or a lot having a legal
40 description.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 17.10.030 and 1997 c 353 s 4 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 There is created a state noxious weed control board comprised of
4 nine voting members and (~~three~~) four nonvoting members. Four of the
5 voting members shall be elected by the members of the various
6 activated county noxious weed control boards, and shall be residents
7 of a county in which a county noxious weed control board has been
8 activated and a member of said board, and those qualifications shall
9 continue through their term of office. Two of these members shall be
10 elected from the west side of the state, the crest of the Cascades
11 being the dividing line, and two from the east side of the state. The
12 director of agriculture is a voting member of the board. One voting
13 member shall be elected by the directors of the various active weed
14 districts formed under chapter 17.04 or 17.06 RCW. The Washington
15 state association of counties appoints one voting member who shall be
16 a member of a county legislative authority. A statewide association
17 representing county noxious weed coordinators appoints a nonvoting
18 technical advisor. The director shall appoint two voting members to
19 represent the public interest, one from the west side and one from
20 the east side of the state. The director shall also appoint three
21 nonvoting members representing scientific disciplines relating to
22 weed control. The term of office for all members of the board is
23 (~~three~~) four years from the date of election or appointment.

24 The board, by rule, shall establish a position number for each
25 elected position of the board and shall designate which county
26 noxious weed control board members are eligible to vote for each
27 elected position. The elected members serve staggered terms.
28 Elections for the elected members of the board shall be held thirty
29 days prior to the expiration date of their respective terms.
30 Nominations and elections shall be by mail and conducted by the
31 board.

32 The board shall conduct its first meeting within thirty days
33 after all its members have been elected. The board shall elect from
34 its members a chair and other officers as may be necessary. A
35 majority of the voting members of the board constitutes a quorum for
36 the transaction of business and is necessary for any action taken by
37 the board. The members of the board serve without salary, but shall
38 be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of
39 their duties under this chapter in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and
40 43.03.060.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 17.10.050 and 1997 c 353 s 6 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) Each activated county noxious weed control board consists of
4 five voting members appointed by the county legislative authority in
5 consultation with the county noxious weed control board. In
6 appointing the voting members, the county legislative authority shall
7 divide the county into five geographical areas that best represent
8 the county's interests, and appoint a voting member from each
9 geographical area. At least (~~four~~) three of the voting members
10 shall be engaged in the primary production of agricultural products.
11 There is one nonvoting member on the board who is the (~~chair~~)
12 director of the county extension office or an extension agent
13 appointed by the (~~chair~~) director of the county extension office.
14 Each voting member of the board serves a term of four years, except
15 that the county legislative authority shall, when a board is first
16 activated under this chapter, designate two voting members to serve
17 terms of two years. The board members shall not receive a salary but
18 shall be compensated for actual and necessary expenses incurred in
19 the performance of their official duties.

20 (2) The voting members of the board serve until their
21 replacements are appointed. New members of the board shall be
22 appointed at least thirty days prior to the expiration of any board
23 member's term of office.

24 Notice of expiration of a term of office shall be published at
25 least twice in a weekly or daily newspaper of general circulation in
26 the (~~section [geographical area]~~) geographical area with last
27 publication occurring at least ten days prior to the nomination. All
28 persons interested in appointment to the board and residing in the
29 geographical area with a pending nomination shall make a written
30 application that includes the signatures of at least ten registered
31 voters residing in the geographical area supporting the nomination to
32 the county noxious weed control board. After nominations close, the
33 county noxious weed control board shall, after a hearing, send the
34 applications to the county legislative authority recommending the
35 names of the most qualified candidates, and post the names of those
36 nominees in the county courthouse or county web site and publish in
37 at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county. The
38 county legislative authority, within (~~ten~~) thirty days of receiving
39 the list of nominees, shall appoint one of those nominees to the
40 county noxious weed control board to represent that geographical area

1 during that term of office. If the county legislative authority fails
2 to appoint a nominee within the thirty-day period, the nominee must
3 be appointed by the county noxious weed control board.

4 (3) Within thirty days after all the members have been appointed,
5 the board shall conduct its first meeting. A majority of the voting
6 members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of
7 business and is necessary for any action taken by the board. The
8 board shall elect from its members a chair and other officers as may
9 be necessary.

10 (4) In case of a vacancy (~~occurring in any voting position on a~~
11 ~~county noxious weed control board, the county legislative authority~~
12 ~~of the county in which the board is located shall appoint a qualified~~
13 ~~person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term)), the position
14 must be filled in the manner prescribed in this section.~~

15 **Sec. 4.** RCW 17.10.060 and 1997 c 353 s 7 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) Each activated county noxious weed control board (~~shall~~)
18 must employ or otherwise provide a weed coordinator whose duties are
19 fixed by the board but which shall include inspecting land to
20 determine the presence of noxious weeds, offering technical
21 assistance and education, and developing a program to achieve
22 compliance with the weed law. The weed coordinator may be employed
23 full time, part time, or seasonally by the county noxious weed
24 control board. County weed board employment practices (~~shall~~
25 ~~employ~~) must be consistent with county personnel policies. Within
26 sixty days from initial employment the weed coordinator (~~shall~~
27 ~~obtain a pest control consultant license, a pesticide operator~~
28 ~~license~~) must obtain licensure consistent with Washington state
29 department of agriculture pesticide license rules, and the necessary
30 endorsements on the licenses as required by law. Each board may
31 purchase, rent, or lease equipment, facilities, or products and may
32 hire additional persons as it deems necessary for the administration
33 of the county's noxious weed control program.

34 (2) Each activated county noxious weed control board has the
35 power to adopt rules and regulations, subject to notice and hearing
36 as provided in chapter(~~s~~) 42.30 (~~and 42.32~~) RCW, as are necessary
37 for an effective county weed control or eradication program.

38 (3) Each activated county noxious weed control board shall meet
39 with a quorum at least quarterly.

1 **Sec. 5.** RCW 17.10.070 and 1998 c 245 s 3 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) In addition to the powers conferred on the state noxious weed
4 control board under other provisions of this chapter, it has the
5 power to:

6 (a) Employ a state noxious weed control board executive secretary
7 and educational specialist who are exempt employees, and additional
8 persons as it deems necessary, to disseminate information relating to
9 noxious weeds to county noxious weed control boards and weed
10 districts, to coordinate the educational and weed control efforts of
11 the various county and regional noxious weed control boards and weed
12 districts, and to assist the board in carrying out its
13 responsibilities;

14 (b) Adopt, amend, or repeal rules, pursuant to the administrative
15 procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, as may be necessary to carry out
16 the duties and authorities assigned to the board by this chapter.

17 (2) The state noxious weed control board (~~shall~~) must provide a
18 written report before January 1st of each odd-numbered year to the
19 county noxious weed control boards and the weed districts showing the
20 expenditure of state funds on noxious weed control; specifically how
21 the funds were spent; the status of the state, county, and district
22 programs; and recommendations for the continued best use of state
23 funds for noxious weed control. The report (~~shall~~) must include
24 recommendations as to the long-term needs regarding weed control.

25 **Sec. 6.** RCW 17.10.074 and 1997 c 353 s 9 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (1) In addition to the powers conferred on the director under
28 other provisions of this chapter, the director, with the advice of
29 the state noxious weed control board, has power to:

30 (a) Require the county legislative authority or the noxious weed
31 control board of any county or any weed district to report to it
32 concerning the presence, absence, or estimated amount of noxious
33 weeds and measures, if any, taken or planned for the control thereof;

34 (b) Employ staff as may be necessary in the administration of
35 this chapter;

36 (c) Adopt, amend, or repeal rules, pursuant to the administrative
37 procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, as may be necessary to carry out
38 this chapter;

1 (d) Do such things as may be necessary and incidental to the
2 administration of its functions pursuant to this chapter including
3 but not limited to surveying for and detecting noxious weed
4 infestations(~~(+~~
5 ~~e))~~).

6 (2) In addition to the powers conferred on the director under the
7 provisions of this chapter, the director, with the advice of the
8 state noxious weed control board, must:

9 (a) Upon receipt of a complaint signed by a majority of the
10 members of an adjacent county noxious weed control board or weed
11 district, or by one hundred registered voters that are land owners
12 within the county, require the county legislative authority or
13 noxious weed control board of the county or weed district that is the
14 subject of the complaint to respond to the complaint within forty-
15 five days with a plan for the control of the noxious weeds cited in
16 the complaint;

17 ~~((f))~~ (b) If the complaint in ~~((e))~~ (a) of this subsection
18 involves a class A or class B noxious weed, order the county
19 legislative authority, noxious weed control board, or weed district
20 to take immediate action to eradicate or control the noxious weed
21 infestation. If the county or the weed district does not take action
22 to control the noxious weed infestation in accordance with the order,
23 the director may control it or cause it to be controlled. The county
24 or weed district is liable for payment of the expense of the control
25 work including necessary costs and expenses for attorneys' fees
26 incurred by the director in securing payment from the county or weed
27 district. The director may bring a civil action in a court of
28 competent jurisdiction to collect the expenses of the control work,
29 costs, and attorneys' fees;

30 ~~((g))~~ (c) In counties without an activated noxious weed control
31 board, enter upon any property as provided for in RCW 17.10.160,
32 issue or cause to be issued notices and citations and take the
33 necessary action to control noxious weeds as provided in RCW
34 17.10.170, hold hearings on any charge or cost of control action
35 taken as provided for in RCW 17.10.180, issue a notice of civil
36 infraction as provided for in RCW 17.10.230 ~~((and))~~, 17.10.310
37 ~~((through [and]))~~, and 17.10.350, and place a lien on any property
38 pursuant to RCW 17.10.280, 17.10.290, and 17.10.300 with the same
39 authorities and responsibilities imposed by these sections on county
40 noxious weed control boards;

1 (~~(h)~~) (d) Adopt a list of noxious weed seeds and toxic weeds
2 which shall be controlled in designated articles, products, or feed
3 stuffs as provided for in RCW 17.10.235.

4 (~~(2)~~) (3) The moneys appropriated for noxious weed control to
5 the department shall be used for administration of the state noxious
6 weed control board, the administration of the director's powers under
7 this chapter, the purchase of materials for controlling, containing,
8 or eradicating noxious weeds, the purchase or collection of
9 biological control agents for controlling noxious weeds, and the
10 contracting for services to carry out the purposes of this chapter.
11 In a county with an activated noxious weed control board, the
12 director shall make every effort to contract with that board for the
13 needed services.

14 (~~(3)~~) (4) If the director determines the need to reallocate
15 funds previously designated for county use, the director shall
16 convene a meeting of the state noxious weed control board to seek its
17 advice concerning any reallocation.

18 **Sec. 7.** RCW 17.10.100 and 1997 c 353 s 12 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 Where any of the following occur, the state noxious weed control
21 board (~~(may, following)~~) must hold a hearing, then may order any
22 county noxious weed control board or weed district to include a
23 noxious weed from the state board's list in the county's noxious weed
24 list:

25 (1) Where the state noxious weed control board receives a
26 petition from at least one hundred registered voters within the
27 county requesting that the weed be listed.

28 (2) Where the state noxious weed control board receives a request
29 for inclusion from an adjacent county's noxious weed control board or
30 weed district, which the adjacent board or district has included that
31 weed in its county or district list, and the adjacent board or weed
32 district (~~(alleges)~~) documents that its noxious weed control program
33 is being hampered by the failure to include the weed on the county's
34 noxious weed list.

35 **Sec. 8.** RCW 17.10.140 and 1997 c 353 s 17 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

1 (1) Except as is provided under subsection (2) of this section,
2 every owner (~~shall~~) must perform or cause to be performed those
3 acts as may be necessary to:

4 (a) Eradicate all class A noxious weeds;

5 (b) Control and prevent the spread of all class B noxious weeds
6 designated for control in that region within and from the owner's
7 property; and

8 (c) Control and prevent the spread of all class B and class C
9 noxious weeds listed on the county weed list as locally mandated
10 control priorities within and from the owner's property.

11 (2) (~~Forestlands~~) Every owner of forestlands classified under
12 RCW 17.10.240(2), or meeting the definition of forestlands contained
13 in RCW 17.10.240, (~~are subject to the requirements of subsection~~
14 ~~(1)(a) and (b) of this section at all times. Forestlands are subject~~
15 ~~to the requirements of subsection (1)(c) of this section only within~~
16 ~~a one thousand foot buffer strip of adjacent land uses. In addition,~~
17 ~~forestlands are subject to subsection (1)(c) of this section for~~)
18 must perform or cause to be performed those acts as may be necessary
19 to:

20 (a) Eradicate all class A noxious weeds;

21 (b) Control and prevent the spread of all class B noxious weeds
22 designated for control in that region within and from the owner's
23 property; and

24 (c) Control and prevent the spread of all class B and class C
25 noxious weeds listed on the county weed list as locally mandated
26 control priorities within and from the owner's property only when
27 encountered:

28 (i) Within one thousand feet of adjacent land uses;

29 (ii) Within fifty feet of all privately owned roads unless
30 properly abandoned as defined under WAC 222-24-052 as that section
31 existed as of January 1, 2020;

32 (iii) Along navigable rivers, gravel pits, log yards, and staging
33 areas, except when not allowed under other state or federal laws or
34 regulations; or

35 (iv) For a single five-year period within harvested areas
36 following the harvesting of trees for (~~lumber~~) products.

37 **Sec. 9.** RCW 17.10.145 and 2019 c 353 s 4 are each amended to
38 read as follows:

1 (1) All state agencies shall control noxious weeds on lands they
2 own, lease, or otherwise control through integrated pest management
3 practices. Agencies (~~shall~~) must appoint a liaison to develop plans
4 in cooperation with county noxious weed control boards to control
5 noxious weeds in accordance with standards in this chapter.

6 (2) All state agencies' lands must comply with this chapter,
7 regardless of noxious weed control efforts on adjacent lands.

8 (3) In counties with a noxious weed assessment under RCW
9 17.10.240, whenever state-managed land, state-owned land, or a state
10 are within any county weed board jurisdiction, the county treasurer
11 must certify annually and forward to the appropriate state agency for
12 payment a statement showing the amount of the assessment to which the
13 land would be liable if they were in private ownership, separately
14 describing each lot or parcel and, if delinquent, with interest and
15 penalties consistent with RCW 84.56.020.

16 (4) While conducting planned projects to ensure compliance with
17 this chapter, all agencies must give preference, when deemed
18 appropriate by the acting agency for the project and targeted
19 resource management goals, to replacing noxious weeds with native
20 forage plants that are pollen-rich or nectar-rich and beneficial for
21 all pollinators, including honey bees.

22 **Sec. 10.** RCW 17.10.205 and 1997 c 353 s 24 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 Open areas subject to the spread of noxious weeds, including but
25 not limited to subdivisions, school grounds, playgrounds, parks, and
26 rights-of-way shall be subject to regulation (~~by activated county~~
27 ~~noxious weed control boards~~) in the same manner and to the same
28 extent as is provided for all terrestrial and aquatic lands of the
29 state.

30 **Sec. 11.** RCW 17.10.235 and 1997 c 353 s 26 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) The director of agriculture shall adopt, with the advice of
33 the state noxious weed control board, rules designating noxious weed
34 seeds which shall be controlled in products, screenings, or articles
35 to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. The rules shall identify the
36 products, screenings, and articles in which the seeds must be
37 controlled and the maximum amount of the seed to be permitted in the
38 product, screenings, or article to avoid a hazard of spreading the

1 noxious weed by seed from the product, screenings, or article. The
2 director shall also adopt, with the advice of the state board, rules
3 designating toxic weeds which shall be controlled in feed stuffs and
4 screenings to prevent injury to the animal that consumes the feed.
5 The rules shall identify the feed stuffs and screenings in which the
6 toxic weeds must be controlled and the maximum amount of the toxic
7 weed to be permitted in the feed. Rules developed under this section
8 shall identify ways that products, screenings, articles, or feed
9 stuffs containing noxious weed seeds or toxic weeds can be made
10 available for beneficial uses.

11 (2) Any person who knowingly or negligently sells or otherwise
12 distributes a product, article, screenings, or feed stuff designated
13 by rule containing noxious weed seeds or toxic weeds designated for
14 control by rule and in an amount greater than the amount established
15 by the director for the seed or weed by rule is guilty of a
16 misdemeanor.

17 (3) The department of agriculture shall, upon request of the
18 buyer, county weed board, or weed district, inspect products,
19 screenings, articles, or feed stuffs designated by rule and charge
20 fees, in accordance with chapter 22.09 RCW, to determine the presence
21 of designated noxious weed seeds or toxic weeds.

22 **Sec. 12.** RCW 17.10.240 and 1997 c 353 s 27 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 (1) The activated county noxious weed control board of each
25 county shall annually submit a budget to the county legislative
26 authority for the operating cost of the county's weed program for the
27 ensuing fiscal year: PROVIDED, That if the board finds the budget
28 approved by the legislative authority is insufficient for an
29 effective county noxious weed control program it shall petition the
30 county legislative authority to hold a hearing (~~as provided in RCW~~
31 ~~17.10.890~~) within thirty days prior to the adoption of the county
32 budget. Control of weeds is a benefit to the lands within any such
33 section. Funding for the budget is derived from any or all of the
34 following:

35 (a) The county legislative authority may, in lieu of a tax, levy
36 an assessment against the land for this purpose. Prior to the levying
37 of an assessment the county noxious weed control board shall hold a
38 public hearing at which it will gather information to serve as a
39 basis for classification and then classify the lands into suitable

1 classifications, including but not limited to dry lands, range lands,
2 irrigated lands, nonuse lands, forestlands, or federal lands. The
3 board shall develop and forward to the county legislative authority,
4 as a proposed level of assessment for each class, an amount as seems
5 just. The assessment rate shall be either uniform per acre in its
6 respective class or a flat rate per parcel rate plus a uniform rate
7 per acre (~~PROVIDED, That if no benefits are found to accrue to a~~
8 ~~class of land, a zero assessment may be levied~~). The county
9 legislative authority, upon receipt of the proposed levels of
10 assessment from the board, after a hearing, shall accept or modify by
11 resolution, or refer back to the board for its reconsideration all or
12 any portion of the proposed levels of assessment. The amount of the
13 assessment constitutes a lien against the property. The county
14 legislative authority may by resolution or ordinance require that
15 notice of the lien be sent to each owner of property for which the
16 assessment has not been paid by the date it was due and that each
17 lien created be collected by the treasurer in the same manner as
18 delinquent real property tax, if within thirty days from the date the
19 owner is sent notice of the lien, including the amount thereof, the
20 lien remains unpaid and an appeal has not been made pursuant to RCW
21 17.10.180. Liens treated as delinquent taxes bear interest at the
22 rate of twelve percent per annum and the interest accrues as of the
23 date notice of the lien is sent to the owner: PROVIDED FURTHER, That
24 any collections for the lien shall not be considered as tax; or

25 (b) The county legislative authority may appropriate money from
26 the county general fund necessary for the administration of the
27 county noxious weed control program. In addition the county
28 legislative authority may make emergency appropriations as it deems
29 necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

30 (2) Forestlands used solely for the planting, growing, or
31 harvesting of trees and which are typified, except during a single
32 period of five years following clear-cut logging, by canopies so
33 dense as to prohibit growth of an understory may be subject to an
34 annual noxious weed assessment levied by a county legislative
35 authority that does not exceed one-tenth of the weighted average per
36 acre noxious weed assessment levied on all other lands in
37 unincorporated areas within the county that are subject to the weed
38 assessment. This assessment shall be computed in accordance with the
39 formula in subsection (3) of this section.

1 (3) The calculation of the "weighted average per acre noxious
2 weed assessment" is a ratio expressed as follows:

3 (a) The numerator is the total amount of funds estimated to be
4 collected from the per acre assessment on all lands except (i)
5 forestlands as identified in subsection (2) of this section, (ii)
6 lands exempt from the noxious weed assessment, and (iii) lands
7 located in an incorporated area.

8 (b) The denominator is the total acreage from which funds in (a)
9 of this subsection are collected. For lands of less than one acre in
10 size, the denominator calculation may be based on the following
11 assumptions: (i) Unimproved lands are calculated as being one-half
12 acre in size on the average, and (ii) improved lands are calculated
13 as being one-third acre in size on the average. The county
14 legislative authority may choose to calculate the denominator for
15 lands of less than one acre in size using other assumptions about
16 average parcel size based on local information.

17 (4) For those counties that levy a per parcel assessment to help
18 fund noxious weed control programs, the per parcel assessment on
19 forestlands as defined in subsection (2) of this section shall not
20 exceed one-tenth of the per parcel assessment on nonforestlands.

21 **Sec. 13.** RCW 17.10.890 and 1997 c 353 s 32 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (~~The following procedures shall be followed to deactivate a~~
24 ~~county noxious weed control board~~) A county noxious weed control
25 board may only be deactivated if there are no class A or class B
26 noxious weeds in the county. Upon receiving documentation of the
27 absence of class A and class B noxious weeds, the county legislative
28 authority may initiate the following procedures:

29 (1) The county legislative authority holds a hearing to determine
30 whether there continues to be a need for an activated county noxious
31 weed control board if:

32 (a) A petition is filed by one hundred registered voters within
33 the county;

34 (b) A petition is filed by a county noxious weed control board as
35 provided in RCW 17.10.240; or

36 (c) The county legislative authority passes a motion to hold such
37 a hearing.

1 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, the
2 hearing shall be held within sixty days of final action taken under
3 subsection (1) of this section.

4 (3) If, after a hearing, the county legislative authority
5 determines that no need exists for a county noxious weed control
6 board, due to the absence of class A or class B noxious weeds
7 designated for control in the region, the county legislative
8 authority shall deactivate the board.

9 (4) The county legislative authority shall not convene a hearing
10 as provided for in subsection (1) of this section more frequently
11 than once a year.

--- END ---