
HOUSE BILL 1010

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Haugen, Wilson, Spanel, Morris, Cole, Zellinsky, Winsley, Orr and Wynne.

Read first time January 14, 1991. Referred to Committee on Fisheries & Wildlife.

1 AN ACT Relating to natural resource enforcement; adding a new
2 section to Title 43 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an
3 effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that protection of
6 the state's natural resources is in transition. As the state's
7 population increases, preservation of the state's natural resources
8 will require a greater emphasis on enforcement of laws and regulations
9 designed to preserve the resource and allow recreational opportunities.

10 The legislature further finds that there is a growing need for
11 increased investigative capability and technical sophistication in
12 prosecuting natural resource violations. To provide better
13 coordination of enforcement and use of enforcement personnel, to
14 eliminate duplication between the department of fisheries and the

1 department of wildlife, and to provide more enforcement presence in the
2 field, it is the intent of the legislature to consolidate the
3 enforcement responsibilities of these two departments.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to Title 43 RCW to
5 read as follows:

6 There is created an office of natural resource enforcement to be
7 administered by a natural resource enforcement officer.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** An evaluation team shall be appointed by
9 the director of the department of fisheries and the director of the
10 department of wildlife to report to the legislature by October 1, 1991,
11 on the following:

12 (1) Whether the office of natural resource enforcement shall be an
13 independent agency or shall be part of the organizational structure of
14 an existing agency;

15 (2) What duties and responsibilities should be assigned to the
16 office of natural resource enforcement; and

17 (3) Whether the following duties and responsibilities shall be
18 transferred to the office of natural resource enforcement:

19 (a) Enforcing compliance of hydraulic permits issued by the
20 department of fisheries and the department of wildlife;

21 (b) Coordinating the location of enforcement agents including the
22 temporary transfer of agents to provide additional coverage during peak
23 seasons;

24 (c) Enforcing and administering both criminal and civil penalties;
25 and

26 (d) Coordinating the adoption of consistent regulations and
27 consistent penalties of the department of fisheries and the department
28 of wildlife.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 2 of this act shall take effect
2 July 1, 1992.