
HOUSE BILL 2428

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Representative Pennington

Read first time 01/10/96. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to the watershed coordinating council; and amending
2 1994 c 239 s 3 (uncodified).

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

4 **Sec. 1.** 1994 c 239 s 3 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

5 (1) The watershed coordinating council is hereby established. The
6 council shall be comprised of the commissioner of public lands or the
7 commissioner's designee and the director or the director's designee or
8 the secretary or the secretary's designee of the following agencies:
9 The department of transportation, the department of agriculture, the
10 department of ecology, the department of fish and wildlife, the
11 department of health, the department of community, trade, and economic
12 development, the interagency committee for outdoor recreation, the
13 Puget Sound water quality authority, and the conservation commission.
14 The members of the council shall coordinate their watershed planning
15 and implementation activities. Meetings of the council shall be
16 subject to the provisions of the open public meetings act.

17 (2) In conjunction with the council's efforts, the commissioner of
18 public lands shall continue to coordinate the department of natural

1 resources' landscape planning and implementation activities with
2 landowners and other interested parties.

3 (3) The council shall coordinate its activities set forth in
4 section 4 of this act with federal, tribal, and local governments.

5 (4)(a) By July 1, 1996, the watershed coordinating council shall
6 implement a pilot project to coordinate watershed restoration
7 activities in at least four watersheds within the state. The council
8 shall select the pilot watershed areas based on local willingness to
9 participate in the pilot program and on other relevant factors as
10 determined by the council.

11 (b) State agencies participating in the council shall form
12 interagency teams in each selected watershed. The teams shall work
13 with local agencies, volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and any other
14 interested party or entity to coordinate and expedite watershed
15 restoration and management activities within the pilot area. In
16 implementing the pilot programs, the interagency teams shall cooperate
17 fully with local entities to:

18 (i) Establish a watershed restoration information bank to
19 facilitate volunteer participation and to consolidate existing
20 watershed data;

21 (ii) Provide training for volunteers as necessary through the
22 Washington State University cooperative extension service;

23 (iii) Establish a prioritized list of watershed restoration
24 activities to be developed after an examination of watershed needs and
25 resources; and

26 (iv) Establish an ongoing organizational framework to implement and
27 monitor restoration activities.

28 (c) The interagency teams shall consolidate and expedite permit
29 requirements necessary for projects identified as a result of this
30 section and take all possible steps to identify and resolve any policy
31 conflicts that may exist between participating agencies.

32 (d) The watershed coordinating council shall submit a report to the
33 appropriate standing committees of the legislature before June 30,
34 1997. The report shall evaluate the pilot program and make
35 recommendations to the legislature to further consolidate and enhance
36 state agency delivery of services for local watershed restoration.

37 (5) The directors of the departments of agriculture, fish and
38 wildlife, and ecology and the commissioner of public lands shall
39 organize meetings of the council and shall cooperatively ensure a

1 reasonable level of staff support for the council and for the task
2 force established in section 5 of this act.
3 (~~(5)~~) (6) The watershed coordinating council shall expire on June
4 30, 1997.

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