
SENATE BILL 6529

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1996 Regular Session

By Senators Drew, Owen, Oke, Sutherland and Winsley

Read first time 01/17/96. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to fish and wildlife department recreational
2 fishing and hunting licenses; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The fish and wildlife commission shall
5 develop proposed legislation for the 1997 legislative session that will
6 simplify, consolidate, and modernize the recreational fishing and
7 hunting license program. The commission shall evaluate the benefits
8 and drawbacks of eliminating the distinction between food fish and game
9 fish and make recommendations to retain or revise the statutes
10 accordingly. An analysis must also be made to determine the
11 suitability of merging the wildlife fund with the general fund.

12 The goal of the license simplification request legislation shall be
13 to reduce the number of recreational licenses required while not
14 adversely affecting the revenue to the department. The purpose of
15 license simplification is to remove unnecessary burdens placed upon the
16 recreational clientele of the department and to ease the sale of
17 licenses by the license dealers. Evaluations must be made of
18 modernized computer-based systems utilized in other states.

1 The requirements for individual catch or harvest records must be
2 reviewed, and the commission shall determine on a case-by-case basis if
3 some of these individual data-keeping requirements can be simplified or
4 eliminated.

5 The commission shall also evaluate methods to improve and simplify
6 service to the license dealers, investigate technology improvements to
7 improve the durability of license forms to the deteriorating effects of
8 moisture and laundry soap, and develop recommendations for adjusting
9 the price of licenses to reflect the changes due to inflation or the
10 need for program changes.

11 The proposed legislation must be submitted to the appropriate
12 legislative committees on or before December 1, 1996.

13 (2) The commission shall review the current license system to
14 achieve better service to the public and for the dealers during the
15 interim period until a more modern system is in place.

16 (3) The commission shall make changes in the current system to
17 eliminate the fraudulent issuance of duplicate licenses and shall
18 report back to the legislature on or before June 1, 1996, on the
19 present system improvements and fraud elimination procedures.

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