

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5253

As Passed Senate, March 6, 1997

Title: An act relating to nonresident juvenile fishing licenses.

Brief Description: Allowing nonresidents under the age of fifteen to obtain a free fishing license.

Sponsors: Senators Strannigan, Oke, Hargrove, Roach, Morton, Swecker, Horn and Winsley.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources & Parks: 2/7/97, 2/14/97 [DP].
Passed Senate, 3/6/97, 47-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Oke, Chair; Rossi, Vice Chair; Hargrove, Jacobsen, Morton, Prentice, Roach, Snyder, Spanel, Stevens and Swecker.

Staff: Aldo Melchiori (786-7439)

Background: Current law requires nonresident youths under 15 years of age to pay \$20 for a fishing license for game fish. Resident youths under 15 years of age are not required to have a fishing license.

Summary of Bill: A fishing license is not required for residents or nonresidents under the age of 15.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 27, 1997.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: The Department of Fish and Wildlife supports the bill because it is impractical to enforce the law as it is. The fiscal impact is minor.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Rick Abbot, Trout Unlimited; Brian Edie, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

House Amendment(s): Nonresident juveniles under 15 years of age must be accompanied by an adult, with a valid Washington fishing license, to qualify for exemption from the nonresident fishing license fee. The total catch limit is the limit imposed by the accompanying adult's fishing

license. If the nonresident juvenile is not accompanied by an adult with a fishing license or if the nonresident juvenile desires an independent catch limit, the license fee remains \$20.