
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1676

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House General Government & Information Technology (originally sponsored by Representatives Short, Lytton, Kretz, and Blake)

READ FIRST TIME 02/27/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to understanding the effects of predation on wild
2 ungulate populations; creating new sections; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) The University of Washington,
6 through the predator ecology lab in the school of environmental and
7 forest sciences, must conduct an independent, scientific, blind peer-
8 reviewed study assessing the health of Washington's wild ungulate
9 population in game management units that have experienced a change in
10 predator population dynamics due to the recovery of gray wolves. The
11 goal of the study must be to examine ungulate population trends in
12 various game management units, using historic and current data, to
13 assess whether or not Washington's wild ungulate population is
14 adequate to support the change in predatory pressure resulting from
15 gray wolf recovery.

16 (b) The study must be conducted over the course of four years,
17 with the majority of any new data collection occurring in the first
18 two years.

19 (2) In conducting the study, the University of Washington must,
20 at a minimum:

1 (a) Compare ungulate population trends in at least two game
2 management units where gray wolves are not currently present with
3 ungulate population trends in at least two game management units
4 supporting gray wolf populations;

5 (b) Consider all predation pressure on wild ungulates and the
6 composition of predator species populations in various game
7 management units, not just the predation caused by gray wolves; and

8 (c) Include in the scope of the study the traditional off-
9 reservation hunting grounds of the Colville confederated tribes,
10 commonly known as the North Half.

11 (3) The study required by this section must be submitted to
12 independent blind peer review by qualified professionals who do not
13 have a financial relationship with the department of fish and
14 wildlife or any other conflicts of interest. As part of the peer-
15 review process, the University of Washington must solicit review from
16 the appropriate game management agencies in the states of Idaho and
17 Montana and the Canadian province of British Columbia.

18 (4) The University of Washington must regularly give status
19 updates during the course of the study required under this section to
20 the wolf advisory group maintained by the department of fish and
21 wildlife.

22 (5)(a) The results of the study required under this section must
23 be presented to the legislature by the University of Washington,
24 consistent with RCW 43.01.036, by October 31, 2018. The University of
25 Washington must also present an interim report to the legislature by
26 October 21, 2016, that includes a description of the research
27 completed and a proposed work plan for the second two years of the
28 study, including estimated costs.

29 (b) The department of fish and wildlife must also present to the
30 legislature any proposed changes to ungulate or predator population
31 management informed by the results of the study required in this
32 section to maximize stability in wild ungulate populations and to
33 minimize predation on domestic ungulate species such as cows, sheep,
34 goats, and horses. This report must be provided to the legislature,
35 consistent with RCW 43.01.036, no later than January 2, 2019.

36 (6) The University of Washington is prohibited from retaining
37 greater than fifteen percent of any funding provided to implement
38 this section for administrative overhead or other deductions not
39 directly associated with conducting the research required by this
40 section.

1 (7) This section expires July 1, 2019.

2 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for the purposes of
3 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
4 provided by June 30, 2015, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
5 act is null and void.

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