
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2276

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Eslick, Haler, and Young)

READ FIRST TIME 01/26/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to notification of wildlife transfer, relocation,
2 or introduction into a new location; and adding a new section to
3 chapter 77.12 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The department must provide notice and hold a public hearing
8 prior to department personnel relocating or introducing any wolves,
9 coyotes, lynx, bobcats, and animals defined as big game in RCW
10 77.08.030, where the action is intended for population maintenance or
11 enhancement.

12 (2)(a) The notice of the public hearing must be made at least
13 thirty days prior to the date of the hearing. The notice must state
14 the public hearing date, time, and location, and provide a brief
15 explanation of the department's proposed action. The brief
16 explanation must include the species of wildlife, the estimated
17 number of animals, the general location where the wildlife will be
18 released, and the potential range the wildlife is likely to roam.

19 (b) A press release of the notice of the public hearing must be
20 sent to media outlets providing news services to the communities that
21 are likely to be impacted by the wildlife's presence. The notice of

1 the public hearing must be posted on the department's web site, and
2 if possible, posted on a local government or community web site near
3 where the wildlife will be relocated or introduced; and be provided
4 in writing to the town, city, or county legislative members and the
5 mayor or county executive of any location that is likely to be
6 impacted by the presence of the wildlife.

7 (3) The public hearing must be open to the public and held within
8 the community most likely to be impacted by the presence of the
9 relocated or introduced wildlife. The presiding official or
10 department personnel must present information explaining the
11 department's proposed actions and related management of the wildlife
12 in sufficient detail to provide an understanding of the reasons for
13 the proposed movement and potential impacts of the action in or near
14 the community. The hearing must be conducted by the presiding
15 official to afford interested persons the opportunity to present
16 comments. Written or electronic submissions will also be accepted and
17 included in the department's hearing record.

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