

EHB 1894 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The commissioner of public lands must
4 direct the wildland fire advisory committee established in RCW
5 76.04.179 to review, analyze, and make recommendations on the
6 following issues related to wild fire prevention, response, and
7 suppression activities within our state:

8 (a) The committee, with the assistance of department of natural
9 resources' personnel, must approximately quantify the areas in the
10 state that are not contained within an established fire district nor
11 subject to a planned fire response and make recommendations as to how
12 these areas could be protected as well as a source of funding for any
13 recommended activities. In doing so, the committee must: Review the
14 relevant recommendations contained in the joint legislative audit and
15 review committee's 2017 final report on fees assessed for forest fire
16 protection; analyze and develop recommendations on potential
17 administrative and legislative actions; and consult with any relevant
18 stakeholders, as deemed necessary by the committee, that are not
19 represented on the committee.

20 (b) The committee must examine the value of community programs
21 that educate homeowners and engage in preventive projects within wild
22 fire risk communities, such as firewise, and make recommendations on
23 whether these programs should be advanced, and if so, how, including
24 potential sources of ongoing funding for the programs.

25 (c) The committee must also develop plans to help protect non-
26 English speaking residents during wildfire emergencies. The committee
27 may enlist the assistance from the state ethnic and diversity
28 commissions or any other organizations who have expertise in public
29 outreach to non-English speaking people.

1 (2) The department of natural resources must provide to the
2 appropriate committees of the legislature a report with the
3 committee's recommendations by November 15, 2020.

4 (3) In addition to the topics described in subsection (1) of this
5 section, as part of the final report as required by subsection (2) of
6 this section, and subject to the availability of amounts appropriated
7 for this specific purpose, the wildland fire advisory committee must
8 review, analyze, and make recommendations on the following issues
9 related to fire protection methods within our state to address
10 unprotected and underprotected lands.

11 (a) The committee, with the assistance of department of natural
12 resources' personnel, must map areas of the state that are not within
13 an established fire protection district, nor subject to a planned
14 wildland fire response.

15 (b) The committee, through consultation with landowners, local
16 fire protection districts, wildfire protection agencies, and other
17 interested parties, must identify and make recommendations as to
18 which methods of protection may be best suited for these areas when
19 considering values at risk, including wildlife habitat, available
20 response resources, and geography in the area. Methods of protection
21 may include, but are not limited to, annexation by adjacent fire
22 protection districts, creation of new fire protection districts, and
23 the broadening of the jurisdiction of the department of natural
24 resources.

25 (c) The committee must make recommendations for appropriate fees
26 to support the various identified methods of protection, including
27 increasing fire protection district levies and fees collected by the
28 department of natural resources.

29 (4) This section expires December 31, 2020."

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30 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "committee;" strike the
31 remainder of the title and insert "creating a new section; and
32 providing an expiration date."

establishment, appropriate level of training, and the personal protective equipment standards for rangeland fire protection associations. Removes the restriction that the Committee only map areas not within an established fire protection district in the eastern half of the state. Makes technical updates to timelines and removes obsolete references.

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