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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1314**

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**State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Trade & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Haugen, Spanel, Wilson, R. Johnson, Kremen, Braddock, H. Sommers, Morris, R. King, Sheldon, Hargrove, Belcher, Basich and Jacobsen).

Read first time March 1, 1991.

1            AN ACT Relating to a fish and wildlife work force; adding a new  
2 chapter to Title 50 RCW; providing an effective date; providing an  
3 expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**            The legislature finds that an increase  
6 in unemployment due to the declining timber economy in the state is  
7 imminent.        The legislature further recognizes that employment  
8 opportunities in state and local government in other natural resource  
9 management professions exist and that dislocated workers in the timber-  
10 related professions represent a potential work force in the areas of  
11 fisheries, wildlife, and recreation.    In Skagit county, unemployment  
12 due to a timber supply reduction is expected; however, an increase in  
13 other natural resource positions for Skagit river enhancement is  
14 expected in the next few years.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**        Unless the context clearly requires  
2 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this  
3 chapter.

4        (1) "Dislocated timber worker" means any individual who:

5        (a) Has been terminated or received a notice of termination from  
6 employment in a timber-related occupation;

7        (b) Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment  
8 compensation benefits; and

9        (c) Is unlikely to return to employment in the individual's  
10 principal occupation or previous industry because of a diminishing  
11 demand for their skills in that occupation or industry.

12        (2) "Department" means the employment security department.

13        (3) "Project" means the natural resource worker project.

14        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**        The department, subject to the  
15 availability of funding under section 4 of this act or an appropriation  
16 from the general fund, shall establish the natural resource worker  
17 project. The project shall be located in Skagit county, shall  
18 terminate on July 1, 1996, and shall provide employment and training  
19 opportunities for dislocated timber workers in the areas of fisheries,  
20 wildlife, recreation, and other natural resource professions. The  
21 department of personnel shall approve the project. The goal of the  
22 project is to allow project employees to be, upon termination of their  
23 participation in the project, eligible for permanent employment with  
24 the departments of wildlife, fisheries, ecology, and natural resources,  
25 and the parks and recreation commission.

26        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**        The department shall use federal funds  
27 that it receives for dislocated timber workers to contract with the  
28 departments of wildlife, fisheries, ecology, and natural resources, and

1 the parks and recreation commission to hire project participants to  
2 conduct tasks in the areas of fisheries, wildlife, forestry, ecology,  
3 and recreation.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The project shall include the following  
5 elements:

6 (1) Recruitment of dislocated timber workers;

7 (2) Placement in the departments of wildlife, fisheries, ecology,  
8 and natural resources, and the parks and recreation commission;

9 (3) On-the-job training in entry-level natural resource management  
10 skills;

11 (4) Comparable salaries and benefits to entry-level positions  
12 already existing in the departments of wildlife, fisheries, ecology,  
13 and natural resources, and the parks and recreation commission.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The department, along with the  
15 departments of personnel, wildlife, fisheries, ecology, and natural  
16 resources, and the parks and recreation commission shall report  
17 annually to the legislature on November 1 of each year beginning  
18 November 1, 1992, and until November 1, 1995.

19 The report shall include, at a minimum, the following elements:

20 (1) The number of project employees;

21 (2) The number and description of positions filled, by agency;

22 (3) Training received;

23 (4) Duration of employment; and

24 (5) Placement in permanent positions.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall  
26 constitute a new chapter in Title 50 RCW.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 8.**        This act is necessary for the immediate  
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
4 effect July 15, 1991.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.**        This act shall expire August 1, 1996.