

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5254

Chapter 26, Laws of 1997

55th Legislature
1997 Regular Session

LIMITING LIABILITY OF LANDOWNERS FOR INJURIES TO RECREATIONAL
USERS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/27/97

Passed by the Senate March 12, 1997
YEAS 48 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 8, 1997
YEAS 95 NAYS 0

CLYDE BALLARD

**Speaker of the
House of Representatives**

Approved April 15, 1997

CERTIFICATE

I, Mike O Connell, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5254** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

MIKE O'CONNELL

Secretary

FILED

April 15, 1997 - 5:44 p.m.

GARY LOCKE

Governor of the State of Washington

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5254

Passed Legislature - 1997 Regular Session

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Long, Roach, Haugen, Jacobsen, Fraser, Zarelli, Strannigan, Deccio, Thibaudeau, Wood, Fairley, Goings and Winsley)

Read first time 03/03/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to the limitation of liability of owners or others
2 in possession of land and water areas for injuries to recreational
3 users; and amending RCW 4.24.210.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 4.24.210 and 1992 c 52 s 1 are each amended to read as
6 follows:

7 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section,
8 any public or private landowners or others in lawful possession and
9 control of any lands whether designated resource, rural, or urban, or
10 water areas or channels and lands adjacent to such areas or channels,
11 who allow members of the public to use them for the purposes of outdoor
12 recreation, which term includes, but is not limited to, the cutting,
13 gathering, and removing of firewood by private persons for their
14 personal use without purchasing the firewood from the landowner,
15 hunting, fishing, camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, bicycling,
16 skateboarding or other nonmotorized wheel-based activities,
17 hanggliding, paragliding, the riding of horses or other animals, clam
18 digging, pleasure driving of off-road vehicles, snowmobiles, and other
19 vehicles, boating, nature study, winter or water sports, viewing or

1 enjoying historical, archaeological, scenic, or scientific sites,
2 without charging a fee of any kind therefor, shall not be liable for
3 unintentional injuries to such users.

4 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section,
5 any public or private landowner or others in lawful possession and
6 control of any lands whether rural or urban, or water areas or channels
7 and lands adjacent to such areas or channels, who offer or allow such
8 land to be used for purposes of a fish or wildlife cooperative project,
9 or allow access to such land for cleanup of litter or other solid
10 waste, shall not be liable for unintentional injuries to any volunteer
11 group or to any other users.

12 (3) Any public or private landowner, or others in lawful possession
13 and control of the land, may charge an administrative fee of up to
14 twenty-five dollars for the cutting, gathering, and removing of
15 firewood from the land. Nothing in this section shall prevent the
16 liability of such a landowner or others in lawful possession and
17 control for injuries sustained to users by reason of a known dangerous
18 artificial latent condition for which warning signs have not been
19 conspicuously posted. Nothing in RCW 4.24.200 and 4.24.210 limits or
20 expands in any way the doctrine of attractive nuisance. Usage by
21 members of the public, volunteer groups, or other users is permissive
22 and does not support any claim of adverse possession.

23 (4) For purposes of this section, a license or permit issued for
24 state-wide use under authority of chapter 43.51 RCW, Title 75, or Title
25 77 RCW is not a fee.

Passed the Senate March 12, 1997.

Passed the House April 8, 1997.

Approved by the Governor April 15, 1997.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 15, 1997.