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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5428**

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**State of Washington****56th Legislature****1999 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation (originally sponsored by Senators T. Sheldon, Swecker, Snyder, McDonald, Oke, Morton, McAuliffe, Stevens, Deccio, Hargrove, McCaslin, B. Sheldon, Zarelli, Bauer, Horn, Shin, Roach, Winsley, West, Hochstatter and Sellar)

Read first time 03/02/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to state purchase of privately grown trout for  
2 planting in state waters; adding new sections to Title 77 RCW; creating  
3 a new section; 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 declining  
6 opportunities to catch anadromous salmon and steelhead trout have  
7 resulted in a need to improve trout fishing in order to satisfy the  
8 public's demand for recreational fishing. The legislature intends to  
9 satisfy this need using as a model the 1998 trout stocking program, in  
10 which a private Okanogan county fish farm supplied sixty thousand one  
11 to two-pound rainbow trout to the department of fish and wildlife,  
12 Colville confederated tribes, and volunteer groups. These trophy trout  
13 provided enhanced recreational fishing opportunities in central  
14 Washington lakes. Farmed rainbow trout have the potential to grow to  
15 trophy size because they are sterile, feed aggressively, and continue  
16 to grow through their life cycle. This program will be called the  
17 "trophy trout partnership act."

18 A relatively small investment by the legislature for purchasing  
19 privately grown trophy triploid trout has the potential to be a major

1 program for rural economic development. Trophy-sized trout,  
2 approximately one and one-half pounds each, can be produced by private  
3 sector fish farmers for approximately two dollars per fish, delivered  
4 to the release site. Fish farmers can produce these fish in a triploid  
5 genetic configuration for the purpose of certifying that the fish are  
6 sterile and cannot interbreed with wild trout. These privately  
7 produced trophy trout are ideal for planting into public lakes and  
8 ponds, to provide immediate recreational fishing at a reasonable cost.

9 The effect of planting trophy trout will be increased fishing  
10 license sales, increased angler participation, increased tourism  
11 activities, and a boost to local economies.

12 The state purchase of privately produced trophy trout is not  
13 intended to replace trout produced by hatcheries of the department of  
14 fish and wildlife. Rather, the purchase is intended to supplement  
15 existing department trout hatchery programs.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The fish and wildlife commission may  
17 institute a program to purchase trophy trout from private fish farmers  
18 in order to increase the recreational fishing opportunities within  
19 state waters. For purposes of this section, "trophy trout" means trout  
20 weighing approximately one and one-half pounds.

21 (2) The fish and wildlife commission may purchase up to one hundred  
22 thousand trophy trout during the 1999 calendar year from private fish  
23 farmers for the purpose of planting by the contractee into department-  
24 identified public freshwater lakes and ponds, to improve recreational  
25 fishing.

26 (3) The fish and wildlife commission may purchase up to one million  
27 trophy trout during the 2000 calendar year from private fish farmers  
28 for the purpose of planting by the contractee into department-  
29 identified public freshwater lakes and ponds, to improve recreational  
30 fishing.

31 (4) Insofar as permitted by law, the fish and wildlife commission  
32 shall make the purchases authorized under this section from private  
33 fish farmers located within Washington state.

34 (5) The fish and wildlife commission shall not make purchases of  
35 trophy trout under this section unless the department of fish and  
36 wildlife hatchery system is funded at the fiscal year 1997 equivalent  
37 level.

1 (6) The fish and wildlife commission shall not, because of the  
2 purchase of trophy trout, reduce the appropriation for hatcheries  
3 operated by the department of fish and wildlife or reduce the number of  
4 hatchery employees.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
6 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
7 June 30, 1999, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
8 void.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act are each added  
10 to Title 77 RCW.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
13 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
14 immediately.

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