
SENATE BILL 5678

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators B. Sheldon, Oke, T. Sheldon and Snyder

Read first time 02/02/1999. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to planting of geoduck beds on state aquatic lands;
2 adding a new section to chapter 79.96 RCW; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 79.96 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The department of natural resources shall implement a pilot
7 program to test the effectiveness of planting geoducks on state aquatic
8 lands located in Puget Sound. The program shall be developed and
9 implemented in consultation with the department of fish and wildlife.
10 The program shall be designed to use test plantings and monitoring of
11 geoduck populations on the test sites to determine if harvestable
12 populations may be achieved in a manner that will increase revenues
13 over that achievable from natural regeneration while ensuring the
14 maintenance of sustainable populations of geoducks. The department of
15 natural resources shall design the test program to compare geoduck
16 populations of the test sites with other sites in Puget Sound providing
17 comparable growing conditions. The department shall use existing state
18 facilities for the production of seed stock. The department may
19 contract with geoduck harvesters licensed in accordance with chapter

1 75.28 RCW to plant the seed and to monitor geoduck populations on the
2 test sites.

3 (2) The program shall be designed to test geoduck populations and
4 growth rates for a period no less than five years. No later than
5 December 31, 2005, the department of natural resources shall report the
6 results of the program to the natural resource committees of the
7 legislature and make recommendations whether the program should be
8 expanded, otherwise modified, or terminated.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of one million two hundred thousand
10 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
11 the biennium ending June 30, 2001, from the resource management cost
12 account to the department of natural resources for the purposes of this
13 act.

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