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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6147**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**2000 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation  
(originally sponsored by Senators Jacobsen, Swecker, Thibaudeau,  
McAuliffe, Oke and Kohl-Welles)

Read first time 01/24/2000.

1 AN ACT Relating to state parks; and adding a new chapter to Title  
2 79A RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) State parks are a valuable asset to the people of the state of  
6 Washington, contributing to their health, education, and well-being;

7 (2) Well maintained state parks are an attraction and contribute  
8 significantly to the economic well-being of the state of Washington;

9 (3) Well maintained state parks encourage the appreciation of the  
10 natural resources and natural beauty of the state of Washington;

11 (4) There is an increasing demand for more state parks and more  
12 state parks services;

13 (5) There are individuals and groups who desire to contribute to  
14 the continued vitality of the state parks system;

15 (6) Providing a tax-deductible method for individuals and groups to  
16 contribute is an effective way of increasing available funds to improve  
17 the state parks system; and

18 (7) It is in the public interest to create a nonprofit foundation  
19 to provide such a method for individuals and groups to contribute to

1 the preservation, restoration, and enhancement of the state parks  
2 system.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The purpose of the Washington state parks  
4 gift foundation is to solicit support for the state parks system,  
5 cooperate with other organizations, and to encourage gifts to support  
6 and improve the state parks.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The definitions in this section apply  
8 throughout this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

9 (1) "Foundation" means the Washington state parks gift foundation,  
10 created in section 4 of this act.

11 (2) "State parks" means that system of parks administered by the  
12 commission under this title.

13 (3) "Eligible grant recipients" includes any and all of the  
14 activities of the commission in carrying out the provisions of this  
15 title.

16 (4) "Eligible projects" means any project, action, or part of any  
17 project or action that serves to preserve, restore, improve, or enhance  
18 the state parks.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) By September 1, 2000, the commission  
20 shall file articles of incorporation in accordance with the Washington  
21 nonprofit corporation act, chapter 24.03 RCW, to establish the  
22 Washington state parks gift foundation. The foundation shall not be an  
23 agency, instrumentality, or political subdivision of the state and  
24 shall not disburse public funds.

25 (2) The foundation shall have a board of directors consisting of up  
26 to fifteen members. Initial members of the board shall be appointed by  
27 the governor and collectively have experience in business, charitable  
28 giving, outdoor recreation, and parks administration. Initial  
29 appointments shall be made by September 30, 2000. Subsequent board  
30 members shall be elected by the general membership of the foundation.

31 (3) Members of the board shall serve three-year terms, except for  
32 the initial terms, which shall be staggered by the governor to achieve  
33 a balanced mix of terms on the board. Members of the board may serve  
34 up to a maximum of three terms. At the end of a term, a member may  
35 continue to serve until a successor has been elected.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    (1) As soon as practicable, the board of  
2 directors shall organize themselves and the foundation suitably to  
3 carry out the duties of the foundation, including achieving federal  
4 tax-exempt status.

5        (2) The foundation shall actively solicit contributions from  
6 individuals and groups for the benefit of the state parks.

7        (3) The foundation shall develop criteria for guiding themselves in  
8 either the creation of an endowment, or the making of grants to  
9 eligible grant recipients and eligible projects in the state parks, or  
10 both.

11       (4) A competitive grant process shall be conducted at least  
12 annually by the foundation to award funds to the state parks.  
13 Competitive grant applications shall only be submitted to the  
14 foundation by the commission. The process shall be started as soon as  
15 practicable. Grants shall be awarded to eligible projects consistent  
16 with the criteria developed by the foundation and shall be available  
17 only for state parks use on eligible projects.

18       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    Money provided to the state parks by the  
19 foundation shall not be used to supplant preexisting funding sources.

20       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.**    If any provision of this act or its  
21 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
22 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
23 persons or circumstances is not affected.

24       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 8.**    Sections 1 through 7 of this act constitute  
25 a new chapter in Title 79A RCW.

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