
SENATE BILL 6552

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Oke, Kohl-Welles, Fraser and Spanel

Read first time 01/19/2000. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to parks and recreation in the west slope of the
2 Cascade foothills; creating new sections; making appropriations;
3 providing an effective 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 the population of
6 the Puget Sound region will grow by more than a million and a half by
7 2020, and that current and new residents will seek greater
8 opportunities for outdoor recreation within a reasonable distance from
9 their homes. Changing demographics, healthier and more active
10 lifestyles, and improvements in recreation technology will all lead to
11 growing public demand for areas and facilities in which to recreate.
12 The west slope Cascade foothills, from the international border south
13 through Thurston county, provide a wealth of existing and potential
14 outdoor recreation areas that are close to the great majority of the
15 urbanized areas of Puget Sound. Within this area are many public
16 lands, including state park units, that may provide the nucleus for a
17 network of lands accessible for diverse recreational uses by people of
18 all ages, physical capacities, and recreational preferences.

1 The legislature further finds that the Cascade foothills are home
2 to many permanent residents who benefit from the natural resource and
3 lifestyle amenities of the foothills, and that expanding recreational
4 opportunities in the foothills must be consistent with the long-term
5 sustainability of the local economies. The west slope Cascade
6 foothills also are an integral part of the "mountains to sound" region
7 and provide significant benefits to the entire region, including
8 watershed protection, wildlife habitat, flood damage reduction, and
9 scenic values. A review of outdoor recreational needs and
10 opportunities in the foothills should include consideration of these
11 benefits and the need for protection of these functions and values.

12 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. (1) As used in this section and section 1 of
13 this act, "Cascade foothills," "west slope Cascade foothills," and
14 "Cascade foothills area" means the generally nonurbanized area within
15 the Cascade mountain range and drainages lying between three hundred
16 and three thousand feet above mean sea level, and located within the
17 counties of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce, and Thurston.
18 Lands lying at lower elevations that are in the immediate vicinity of
19 the foothills area, such as lower drainages, are also included within
20 this term. These lands include public lands that are devoted to
21 developed, nonrecreational uses. This definition is provided solely to
22 guide the parks and recreation commission in the geographic scope of
23 its study responsibilities and confers no authority upon any entity
24 other than the commission for the study purposes of this section.

25 (2) The Washington state parks and recreation commission shall
26 review and make recommendations to the legislature and governor on the
27 existing and future outdoor recreational needs and opportunities in the
28 west slope Cascade foothills, recognizing the important functions and
29 values that are provided by these lands. These include wildlife
30 habitat, watershed protection, flood damage protection, scenic
31 enjoyment, and economic uses, as well as the means by which more
32 effective use of existing public lands in the foothills, assisted by
33 willing private providers of outdoor recreation facilities, may serve
34 to meet these needs. To this end the study should include:

35 (a) An assessment of the existing and the twenty-year growth
36 projection for recreational demand of the population residing within
37 one-hour driving time from the Cascade foothills. This assessment
38 shall include the types of recreational uses anticipated, demographic

1 projections of recreational users, and developed facilities needed to
2 serve such uses;

3 (b) An inventory of existing facilities and lands accessible for
4 recreational use within the Cascade foothills;

5 (c) A review of existing local, regional, state, federal, private,
6 and nongovernmental nonprofit entities providing outdoor recreation
7 opportunities within the Cascade foothills and their coordination in
8 meeting public outdoor recreation demand, as well as the role of public
9 education of recreational users to avoid land damage;

10 (d) A review of state lands within the Cascade foothills that may
11 be managed principally or in part for outdoor recreation uses as a unit
12 of a Cascade foothills state park, and recommendations for
13 transitioning to such management;

14 (e) An assessment of existing wildlife and conservation functions
15 and values to use in evaluating the potential compatibility of proposed
16 recreational uses and activities, and planning techniques to avoid land
17 damage in developing and using recreational facilities;

18 (f) Recommendations for regional coordination among public and
19 private outdoor recreation providers to promote expanded outdoor
20 recreation opportunities within the Cascade foothills; and

21 (g) Methods to fund local, regional, and state outdoor recreation
22 programs and facilities within the Cascade foothills.

23 (3) In conducting the study, the Washington state parks and
24 recreation commission should consult with the counties and cities
25 within the Cascade foothills area, with other public and private land
26 managers providing outdoor recreation opportunities to the public, and
27 with organizations having an interest in the management, conservation,
28 and use of public lands in the Cascade foothills.

29 (4) The Washington state parks and recreation commission may accept
30 contributions of funds or services to assist in conducting the study.

31 (5) The Washington state parks and recreation commission shall
32 provide its report and recommendations to the governor and the parks
33 committees of the senate and house of representatives no later than
34 December 15, 2000.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars,
36 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
37 year ending June 30, 2000, from the general fund to the Washington
38 state parks and recreation commission for the purposes of this act.

1 (2) The sum of seventy-five thousand dollars, or as much thereof as
2 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,
3 2001, from the general fund to the Washington state parks and
4 recreation commission for the purposes of this act.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
7 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
8 April 15, 2000.

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