

SB 5011 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Fisheries, Ecology & Parks

ADOPTED 04/09/2003

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 The department shall manage wildlife programs in a manner that
6 provides for public opportunities to view wildlife and supports
7 wildlife viewing tourism without impairing the state's wildlife
8 resources.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The departments of fish and wildlife and
10 community, trade, and economic development shall host a working
11 conference on promoting wildlife viewing tourism. The objective of the
12 conference shall be to adopt a strategic plan and specific implementing
13 actions to promote wildlife viewing tourism in Washington in a manner
14 that both provides sustainable economic development in the state's
15 rural areas and supports maintaining the state's wildlife diversity.

16 (2) The departments shall work with interested local governments,
17 state agencies, visitor and convention bureaus, the hospitality
18 industry, tourism development organizations, and tour operators and
19 wildlife conservation organizations in preparing for and conducting the
20 conference. The departments shall guide preparation for the conference
21 by surveying programs and activities in other states and compiling
22 information on current programs, infrastructure, and promotional
23 activities regarding wildlife viewing tourism in Washington. To
24 enhance the effectiveness of the conference and its products, the
25 departments shall seek to frame issues and outline options for
26 improvement through white papers and preliminary meetings with interest
27 groups.

28 (3) Among the topics that the departments and interest groups
29 should address at the conference are:

1 (a) Strategies to increase revenues and benefits to Washington
2 communities with wildlife viewing resources that have identified
3 tourism as part of their economic development strategy;

4 (b) Strengthening the wildlife viewing tourism elements of gateway
5 community partnerships among state and local transportation, economic
6 development, and parks and wildlife agencies;

7 (c) Providing leadership and services by state agencies to assist
8 local communities to assess their local wildlife viewing resources and
9 to market tourism centered upon such resources;

10 (d) Developing proposals to increase state funding to local
11 communities to implement local wildlife viewing tourism plans,
12 including assessing resources, providing infrastructure specific to
13 wildlife viewing tourism, festival development, and marketing; and

14 (e) Promoting wildlife viewing tourism as an element of tourism
15 related to the Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemoration.

16 (4) The departments shall schedule the conference at a time
17 sufficient to prepare a summary of the conference proceedings and
18 proposals for legislative funding to be submitted to the appropriate
19 committees of the legislature no later than December 15, 2003."

20 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Removes the \$45,000 appropriation from the general fund.

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