

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1725

As Reported by House Committee On:
Fisheries, Ecology & Parks
Appropriations

Title: An act relating to catch record cards.

Brief Description: Concerning the cost of a catch record card.

Sponsors: Representatives Cooper and Upthegrove.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Fisheries, Ecology & Parks: 2/20/03 [DPS];

Appropriations: 3/5/03, 3/8/03 [DP2S(w/o sub FEP)].

Brief Summary of Second Substitute Bill

- Requires a \$10 fee for an additional or duplicate catch record card and deposits proceeds from the sale of catch record cards in the Wildlife Fund.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, ECOLOGY & PARKS

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives Cooper, Chair; Sump, Ranking Minority Member; Hinkle, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Buck, Hatfield, O'Brien, Pearson and Upthegrove.

Staff: Jeff Olsen (786-7157).

Background:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) currently requires recreational fishers to report their harvest activity on catch record cards for salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, halibut, and Dungeness crab. Catch record cards are provided free with the purchase of a license and must be used by recreational fishers to report each fish caught. Catch estimates generated by the catch record card system are used by the DFW to manage fisheries.

The Director of the DFW must establish by rule the conditions and fees for issuing duplicate licenses. Fees for duplicate licenses, permits, tags, and stamps may not exceed the actual cost for issuing the duplicate license.

A personal use saltwater, freshwater, combination, or temporary license is required for all persons 15 years of age or older to fish for or possess fish taken for personal use from state or offshore waters. Temporary fishing licenses are issued either as a license document requiring personal identification or as a stamp. Charter boats may sell temporary fishing license stamps to customers which are valid for two consecutive days.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

Additional catch record cards cost \$10 each. Duplicate catch record cards are only available to full season license holders and cost \$10 each. Funds received from the sale of catch record cards must be deposited in the Wildlife Fund. Fees for duplicate catch record cards may exceed the cost of issuing the duplicate card. Catch record cards issued with a temporary license are not subject to the catch record card provisions. Charter boat operators issuing temporary licenses shall affix a charterboat stamp to each catch record card before a person fishes.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:

The substitute bill excludes holders of temporary licenses from acquiring duplicate catch record cards and from paying the \$10 charge. Catch record cards issued with a temporary license are not subject to catch record card provisions. Charter boat operators issuing temporary licenses shall affix a charterboat stamp to each catch record card before a person fishes.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested February 17, 2003.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: The bill will provide additional revenues to the DFW and educate the angling public regarding the value of the resource. Revenues should be seen as new money, not to be used instead of general fund. Hatcheries provide a significant amount of fish for recreational fisheries. Washington has a large hatchery system that needs additional revenue. The cost of fishing with catch record cards in Oregon is nearly three times higher than Washington. Charter boat operators support the bill as it applies to full season fishing licenses, and the amendment addresses implementation concerns for charter boat operators.

The DFW uses catch record cards to provide data to manage fisheries. The DFW supports the bill but needs authority to sell catch record cards through the DFW's automated licensing system. Also, youth under age 15 currently do not pay for a fishing license, but they would be subject to the \$10 duplicate catch record card fee.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Frank Hawley and Susan Markey, Department of Fish and Wildlife; Ed Owens, Coalition of Coastal Fisheries; Corey Freeman and Liz Hamilton, Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Majority Report: The second substitute bill be substituted therefor and the second substitute bill do pass and do not pass the substitute bill by Committee on Fisheries, Ecology & Parks. Signed by 27 members: Representatives Sommers, Chair; Fromhold, Vice Chair; Sehlin, Ranking Minority Member; Pearson, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Boldt, Buck, Clements, Cody, Conway, Cox, DeBolt, Dunshee, Grant, Hunter, Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Linville, McDonald, McIntire, Miloscia, Pflug, Ruderman, Schual-Berke, Sump and Talcott.

Staff: Patricia Linehan (786-7178).

Summary of Recommendation of Committee On Appropriations Compared to Recommendation of Committee On Fisheries, Ecology & Parks:

The second substitute bill requires the agency to absorb the cost of implementing this legislation. It specifically adds catch record cards as a document the agency is authorized to issue, and clarifies that a transaction fee may be issued through an automated license system when selling recreational documents.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date of Second Substitute Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: The proposed bill would be a good revenue enhancement for the Department of Fish & Wildlife, but not if it is used as a vehicle to free up additional general fund money for other areas. License fee increases are taken very seriously. Catch record cards are currently required to legally harvest salmon, steelhead, halibut, sturgeon, and Dungeness crab in Washington. Oregon charges for both the original catch record card and for additional cards. We urge you to move forward with the bill as it is

a valuable and creative solution to the state's revenue needs.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Frank Hawley, Department of Fish and Wildlife; Corey Freeman, Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association; and Ed Owens, Coalition of Coastal Fisheries.