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SENATE BILL 5011

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Winsley and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/13/2003. Referred to Committee on Parks, Fish & Wildlife.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting wildlife viewing; adding a new section  
2 to chapter 77.12 RCW; creating a new section; and making an  
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

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

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

1 (2) The departments shall work with interested local governments,  
2 state agencies, visitor and convention bureaus, the hospitality  
3 industry, tourism development organizations, and tour operators and  
4 wildlife conservation organizations in preparing for and conducting the  
5 conference. The departments shall guide preparation for the conference  
6 by surveying programs and activities in other states and compiling  
7 information on current programs, infrastructure, and promotional  
8 activities regarding wildlife viewing tourism in Washington. To  
9 enhance the effectiveness of the conference and its products, the  
10 departments shall seek to frame issues and outline options for  
11 improvement through white papers and preliminary meetings with interest  
12 groups.

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

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

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

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

24 (d) Developing proposals to increase state funding to local  
25 communities to implement local wildlife viewing tourism plans,  
26 including assessing resources, providing infrastructure specific to  
27 wildlife viewing tourism, festival development, and marketing; and

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

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

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of forty-five thousand dollars, or  
35 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal  
36 year ending June 30, 2004, from the general fund to the department of  
37 fish and wildlife for the purposes of this act.

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