
SENATE BILL 5204

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Oke, Doumit, T. Sheldon, Jacobsen, Swecker, Kohl-Welles and Esser; by request of Department of Fish and Wildlife

Read first time 01/17/2003. Referred to Committee on Parks, Fish & Wildlife.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhancing watchable wildlife activities;
2 amending RCW 77.12.170 and 77.32.380; adding a new section to chapter
3 77.32 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that healthy wildlife
6 populations significantly contribute to the economic vitality of
7 Washington's rural areas through increased opportunities for watchable
8 wildlife and related tourism. Travel related to watchable wildlife is
9 one of the fastest growing segments of the travel industry. Much of
10 this travel occurs off-season, creating jobs and providing revenue to
11 local businesses and governments during otherwise slow periods. The
12 watchable wildlife industry is particularly important to Washington's
13 rural economies.

14 The legislature also finds that it is vital to support programs
15 that enhance watchable wildlife activities and tourism, while also
16 protecting the wildlife resources that attract the viewers. A revenue
17 source must be created and directed to the watchable wildlife programs
18 of the department of fish and wildlife to develop watchable wildlife

1 opportunities in cooperation with other local, state, and federal
2 agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.32 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The department may sell watchable wildlife decals. Proceeds
6 from the sale of the decal must be deposited into the state wildlife
7 fund created in RCW 77.12.170 and must be dedicated to the support of
8 the department's watchable wildlife activities. The department may
9 also use proceeds from the sale of the decal for marketing the decal
10 and for marketing watchable wildlife activities in the state.

11 (2) The term "watchable wildlife activities" includes but is not
12 limited to: Initiating partnerships with communities to jointly
13 develop watchable wildlife projects, building infrastructure to serve
14 wildlife viewers, assisting and training communities in conducting
15 wildlife watching events, developing destination wildlife viewing
16 corridors and trails, tours, maps, brochures, and travel aides, and
17 offering grants to assist rural communities in identifying key wildlife
18 attractions and ways to protect and promote them.

19 (3) The commission must adopt by rule the cost of the watchable
20 wildlife decal. A person may, at their discretion, contribute more
21 than the cost as set by the commission by rule for the watchable
22 wildlife decal in order to support watchable wildlife activities. A
23 person who purchases a watchable wildlife decal must be issued one
24 vehicle use permit free of charge.

25 **Sec. 3.** RCW 77.12.170 and 2001 c 253 s 15 are each amended to read
26 as follows:

27 (1) There is established in the state treasury the state wildlife
28 fund which consists of moneys received from:

29 (a) Rentals or concessions of the department;

30 (b) The sale of real or personal property held for department
31 purposes;

32 (c) The sale of licenses, permits, tags, and stamps required by
33 chapter 77.32 RCW and RCW 77.65.490, except annual resident adult
34 saltwater and all shellfish licenses, which shall be deposited into the
35 state general fund;

36 (d) Fees for informational materials published by the department;

1 (e) Fees for personalized vehicle license plates as provided in
2 chapter 46.16 RCW;

3 (f) Articles or wildlife sold by the director under this title;

4 (g) Compensation for damage to department property or wildlife
5 losses or contributions, gifts, or grants received under RCW 77.12.320
6 (~~or 77.32.380~~);

7 (h) Excise tax on anadromous game fish collected under chapter
8 82.27 RCW;

9 (i) The sale of personal property seized by the department for
10 fish, shellfish, or wildlife violations; (~~and~~)

11 (j) The department's share of revenues from auctions and raffles
12 authorized by the commission; and

13 (k) The sale of watchable wildlife decals under section 2 of this
14 act.

15 (2) State and county officers receiving any moneys listed in
16 subsection (1) of this section shall deposit them in the state treasury
17 to be credited to the state wildlife fund.

18 **Sec. 4.** RCW 77.32.380 and 2001 c 243 s 1 are each amended to read
19 as follows:

20 (1) Persons who enter upon or use clearly identified department
21 improved access facilities with a motor vehicle may be required to
22 display a current annual fish and wildlife lands vehicle use permit on
23 the motor vehicle while within or while using an improved access
24 facility. An "improved access facility" is a clearly identified area
25 specifically created for motor vehicle parking, and includes any boat
26 launch or boat ramp associated with the parking area, but does not
27 include the department parking facilities at the Gorge Concert Center
28 near George, Washington. One vehicle use permit shall be issued at no
29 charge with an initial purchase of either an annual saltwater,
30 freshwater, combination, small game hunting, big game hunting, or
31 trapping license, or a wildlife stewardship decal, issued by the
32 department. The annual fee for a fish and wildlife lands vehicle use
33 permit, if purchased separately, is ten dollars. A person to whom the
34 department has issued a vehicle use permit or who has purchased a
35 vehicle use permit separately may purchase additional vehicle use
36 permits from the department at a cost of five dollars per vehicle use

1 permit. Revenue derived from the sale of fish and wildlife lands
2 vehicle use permits shall be used solely for the stewardship and
3 maintenance of department improved access facilities.

4 Youth groups may use department improved access facilities without
5 possessing a vehicle use permit when accompanied by a vehicle use
6 permit holder.

7 ~~((The department may accept contributions into the state wildlife
8 fund for the sound stewardship of fish and wildlife. Contributors
9 shall be known as "conservation patrons" and, for contributions of
10 twenty dollars or more, shall receive a fish and wildlife lands vehicle
11 use permit free of charge.))~~

12 (2) The vehicle use permit must be displayed from the interior of
13 the motor vehicle so that it is clearly visible from outside of the
14 motor vehicle before entering upon or using the motor vehicle on a
15 department improved access facility. The vehicle use permit can be
16 transferred between two vehicles and must contain space for the vehicle
17 license numbers of each vehicle.

18 (3) Failure to display the fish and wildlife lands vehicle use
19 permit if required by this section is an infraction under chapter 7.84
20 RCW, and department employees are authorized to issue a notice of
21 infraction to the registered owner of any motor vehicle entering upon
22 or using a department improved access facility without such a vehicle
23 use permit. The penalty for failure to clearly display the vehicle use
24 permit is sixty-six dollars. This penalty is reduced to thirty dollars
25 if the registered owner provides proof to the court that he or she
26 purchased a vehicle use permit within fifteen days after the issuance
27 of the notice of violation.

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