

ESHB 1799 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation

ADOPTED 04/08/2005

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that law enforcement
4 functions at state parks and lands are insufficient to adequately
5 protect the public and our natural resources. Threats to the safety of
6 the visiting public and public lands are not necessarily confined to
7 the boundaries of state parks and lands. State law does not expressly
8 grant or deny park rangers the authority to engage in law enforcement
9 activities outside of park and land boundaries. Further, the
10 legislature finds that, in many areas of the state, other state or
11 local law enforcement officers are either too far away or understaffed
12 to provide adequate support to on-site law enforcement professionals in
13 emergency situations. The legislature finds that a comprehensive
14 review of the role and responsibilities of law enforcement
15 professionals within and around state parks and lands is necessary to
16 ensure the value of state parks and natural resources is not
17 diminished.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The task force on state public
19 recreational lands and public safety is created. The task force shall
20 be comprised of twelve members appointed as follows:

21 (a) Two members of the house of representatives, one from each
22 major caucus, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of
23 representatives;

24 (b) Two members of the senate, one from each major caucus, to be
25 appointed by the president of the senate;

26 (c) The commissioner of public lands or his or her designee;

27 (d) The chair of the Washington state parks and recreation
28 commission or his or her designee;

1 (e) The chair of the Washington fish and wildlife commission or his
2 or her designee;

3 (f) Five members, to be appointed jointly by the speaker of the
4 house of representatives and the president of the senate, from
5 nominations submitted by the following organizations:

6 (i) One representative of the Washington association of sheriffs
7 and police chiefs;

8 (ii) One representative of the Washington state council of police
9 and sheriffs;

10 (iii) One representative of the Washington association of
11 prosecuting attorneys;

12 (iv) One representative park ranger who is an active member of the
13 recognized employee bargaining unit and who is employed by the
14 Washington state parks and recreation commission; and

15 (v) One recognized employee representative of enforcement officers
16 with the department of natural resources.

17 (2) The task force members shall elect a chair and determine its
18 operating procedures. The task force shall be jointly staffed by the
19 office of program research and senate committee services as determined
20 by their respective staff directors.

21 (a) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for
22 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
23 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are
24 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW
25 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

26 (b) The compensable travel expenses as provided in (a) of this
27 subsection shall be paid jointly by the senate and the house of
28 representatives.

29 (3) This section expires January 1, 2006.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The task force shall conduct a comprehensive
31 review of law enforcement issues in and around state parks and lands,
32 including but not limited to:

33 (1) The extent to which illegal activity in and around state parks
34 and lands threatens public safety and natural resources; and

35 (2) The ability of the current state and local law enforcement to
36 respond to illegal activity on or near public recreational lands.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** By December 15, 2005, the task force shall
2 provide a final report of its recommendations, including any draft
3 legislation to implement the recommendations. The report shall be
4 submitted to the chief clerk of the house of representatives and the
5 secretary of the senate."

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6 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "commission;" strike the
7 remainder of the title and insert "creating new sections; and providing
8 an expiration date."

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