

SB 5179 - S AMD 30  
By Senator Morton

ADOPTED 02/08/2006

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A work group is created to study  
4 opportunities to improve the forest health issues enumerated in RCW  
5 76.06.140 that are facing forest land in Washington and to help the  
6 commissioner of public lands develop a strategic plan under section 3,  
7 chapter 218, Laws of 2004. The work group may, if deemed necessary,  
8 identify and focus on regions of the state where forest health issues  
9 enumerated in section 1 of this act are the most critical.

10 (2)(a) The work group is comprised of individuals selected on the  
11 basis of their knowledge of forests, forest ecology, or forest health  
12 issues and, if determined by the commissioner of public lands to be  
13 necessary, should represent a mix of individuals with knowledge  
14 regarding specific regions of the state. Members of the work group  
15 shall be appointed by the commissioner of public lands, unless  
16 otherwise specified, and shall include:

17 (i) The commissioner of public lands or the commissioner's  
18 designee, who shall serve as chair;

19 (ii) A representative of a statewide industrial timber landowner's  
20 group;

21 (iii) A landowner representative from the small forest landowner  
22 advisory committee established in RCW 76.13.110;

23 (iv) A representative of a college within a state university that  
24 specializes in forestry or natural resources science;

25 (v) A representative of an environmental organization;

26 (vi) A representative of a county that has within its borders  
27 state-owned forest lands that are known to suffer from the forest  
28 health deficiencies enumerated in RCW 76.06.140;

29 (vii) A representative of the Washington state department of fish  
30 and wildlife;

- 1 (viii) A forest hydrologist, an entomologist, and a fire ecologist,  
2 if available;
- 3 (ix) A representative of the governor appointed by the governor;  
4 and
- 5 (x) A representative of a professional forestry organization.
- 6 (b) In addition to the membership of the work group outlined in  
7 this section, the commissioner of public lands shall also invite the  
8 full and equal participation of:
- 9 (i) A representative of a tribal government located in a region of  
10 the state where the forest health issues enumerated in RCW 76.06.140  
11 are present; and
- 12 (ii) A representative of both the United States forest service and  
13 the United States fish and wildlife service stationed to work primarily  
14 in Washington.
- 15 (3) The work group shall:
- 16 (a) Determine whether the goals and requirements of chapter 76.06  
17 RCW are being met with regard to the identification, designation, and  
18 reduction of significant forest insect and disease threats to public  
19 and private forest resources, and whether the provisions of chapter  
20 76.06 RCW are the most effective and appropriate way to address forest  
21 health issues;
- 22 (b) Study what incentives could be used to assist landowners with  
23 the costs of creating and maintaining forest health;
- 24 (c) Identify opportunities and barriers for improved prevention of  
25 losses of public and private resources to forest insects, diseases,  
26 wind, and fire;
- 27 (d) Assist the commissioner in developing a strategic plan under  
28 section 3, chapter 218, Laws of 2004 for increasing forest resistance  
29 and resilience to forest insects, disease, wind, and fire in  
30 Washington;
- 31 (e) Develop funding alternatives for consideration by the  
32 legislature;
- 33 (f) Explore possible opportunities for the state to enter into  
34 cooperative agreements with the federal government, or other avenues  
35 for the state to provide input on the management of federally owned  
36 land in Washington;
- 37 (g) Develop recommendations for the proper treatment of infested  
38 and fire and wind damaged forests on public and private lands within

1 the context of working with interdisciplinary teams under the forest  
2 practices act to ensure that forest health is achieved with the  
3 protection of fish, wildlife, and other public resources;

4 (h) Analyze the state noxious weed control statutes and procedures  
5 (chapter 17.10 RCW) and the extreme hazard regulations adopted under  
6 the forest protection laws, to determine if the policies and procedures  
7 of these laws are applicable, or could serve as a model to support  
8 improved forest health; and

9 (i) Recommend whether the work group should be extended beyond the  
10 time that the required report has been submitted.

11 (4) The work group shall submit to the department of natural  
12 resources and the appropriate standing committees of the legislature,  
13 no later than December 30, 2006, its findings and recommendations for  
14 legislation that is necessary to implement the findings.

15 (5) The department of natural resources shall provide technical and  
16 staff support from existing staff for the work group created by this  
17 section.

18 (6) The work group is required to hold a minimum of five meetings,  
19 at diverse locations throughout the state, to gather public input  
20 regarding the group's proposed legislation.

21 (7) This section expires June 30, 2007.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
24 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
25 immediately."

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26 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "health;" strike the  
27 remainder of the title and insert "creating a new section; providing an  
28 expiration date; and declaring an emergency."

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