
**Natural Resources, Ecology &
Parks Committee**

HB 1498

Brief Description: Prohibiting the release of barred owls.

Sponsors: Representatives Blake, McCoy, Wallace, Kretz, Buck, Chase and Murray.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates a civil violation against anyone releasing a barred owl or spotted owl/barred owl hybrid anywhere in the state if the bird has been captured alive pursuant to a Federal permit.

Hearing Date: 2/15/05

Staff: Jason Callahan (786-7117).

Background:

The barred owl is a bird species that is native to the mid-western and eastern forests in the United States, and exists as a non-native species in Washington. The northern spotted owl is a close relative to the barred owl, but is native to areas of the county where barred owls have not historically existed. These areas include the state of Washington.

Within Washington, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has management authority over birds. However, when it comes to most migratory birds, such as barred owls and spotted owls, the Department's management must be consistent with the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. This legislation prohibits the non-permitted capturing, hunting, and selling of migratory birds.

Summary of Bill:

It is a civil violation to release a barred owl or spotted owl/barred owl hybrid anywhere in the state if the bird has been captured alive pursuant to a Federal permit. The prohibition on the release of owls applies to private citizens and public employees.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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