

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5179

Chapter 342, Laws of 2006

59th Legislature
2006 Regular Session

FOREST HEALTH

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/7/06

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2006
YEAS 46 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 1, 2006
YEAS 98 NAYS 0

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5179** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

THOMAS HOEMANN

Secretary

Approved March 30, 2006.

FILED

March 30, 2006 - 2:43 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5179

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2006 Regular Session

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Senators Morton, Jacobsen, Sheldon and Stevens

Read first time 01/17/2005. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to forest health; creating new sections; and
2 providing an expiration date.

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

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

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

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

1 (ii) A representative of a statewide industrial timber landowner's
2 group;

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

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

7 (v) A representative of an environmental organization;

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

11 (vii) A representative of the Washington state department of fish
12 and wildlife;

13 (viii) A forest hydrologist, an entomologist, and a fire ecologist,
14 if available;

15 (ix) A representative of the governor appointed by the governor;
16 and

17 (x) A representative of a professional forestry organization.

18 (b) In addition to the membership of the work group outlined in
19 this section, the commissioner of public lands shall also invite the
20 full and equal participation of:

21 (i) A representative of a tribal government located in a region of
22 the state where the forest health issues enumerated in RCW 76.06.140
23 are present; and

24 (ii) A representative of both the United States forest service and
25 the United States fish and wildlife service stationed to work primarily
26 in Washington.

27 (3) The work group shall:

28 (a) Determine whether the goals and requirements of chapter 76.06
29 RCW are being met with regard to the identification, designation, and
30 reduction of significant forest insect and disease threats to public
31 and private forest resources, and whether the provisions of chapter
32 76.06 RCW are the most effective and appropriate way to address forest
33 health issues;

34 (b) Study what incentives could be used to assist landowners with
35 the costs of creating and maintaining forest health;

36 (c) Identify opportunities and barriers for improved prevention of
37 losses of public and private resources to forest insects, diseases,
38 wind, and fire;

1 (d) Assist the commissioner in developing a strategic plan under
2 section 3, chapter 218, Laws of 2004 for increasing forest resistance
3 and resilience to forest insects, disease, wind, and fire in
4 Washington;

5 (e) Develop funding alternatives for consideration by the
6 legislature;

7 (f) Explore possible opportunities for the state to enter into
8 cooperative agreements with the federal government, or other avenues
9 for the state to provide input on the management of federally owned
10 land in Washington;

11 (g) Develop recommendations for the proper treatment of infested
12 and fire and wind damaged forests on public and private lands within
13 the context of working with interdisciplinary teams under the forest
14 practices act to ensure that forest health is achieved with the
15 protection of fish, wildlife, and other public resources;

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
35 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by

1 June 30, 2006, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
2 void.

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2006.

Passed by the House March 1, 2006.

Approved by the Governor March 30, 2006.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 30, 2006.