

SSB 5248 - H AMD TO LG COMM AMD (H3122.3/07) **654**
By Representative Simpson

WITHDRAWN 4/13/2007

1 Strike everything after page 1, line 2 of the amendment and
2 insert the following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Subject to the availability of
4 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the William D.
5 Ruckelshaus Center must conduct an examination of the conflicts
6 between agricultural activities and critical area ordinances
7 adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW. The examination required by this
8 section must commence by July 1, 2007.

9 (2) In fulfilling the requirements of this section, the center
10 must: (a) Work and consult with willing participants including,
11 but not limited to, agricultural, environmental, tribal, and local
12 government interests; and (b) involve and apprise legislators and
13 legislative staff of its efforts.

14 (3) The examination conducted by the center must be completed
15 in two distinct phases in accordance with the following:

16 (a) In the first phase, the center must conduct fact-finding
17 and stakeholder discussions with stakeholders identified in
18 subsection (2) of this section. These discussions must identify
19 stakeholder concerns, desired outcomes, opportunities, and
20 barriers. The fact-finding must identify existing regulatory,
21 management, and scientific information related to agricultural
22 activities and critical areas including, but not limited to: (i)
23 Critical area ordinances adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW; (ii)
24 acreage enrolled in the conservation reserve enhancement program;
25 (iii) acreage protected by conservation easements; (iv) buffer
26 widths; (v) requirements of federally approved salmon recovery
27 plans; (vi) the impacts of agricultural activities on Puget Sound
28 recovery efforts; and (vii) compliance with water quality
29 requirements. The center must issue a report of its fact-finding
30 efforts and stakeholder discussions to the governor and the

1 appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the
2 senate by December 1, 2007; and

3 (b)(i) In the second phase, the center must facilitate
4 discussions between the stakeholders identified in subsection (2)
5 of this section to identify policy and financial options or
6 opportunities to address the issues and desired outcomes identified
7 by stakeholders in the first phase of the center's examination
8 efforts.

9 (ii) In particular, the stakeholders must examine innovative
10 solutions including, but not limited to, outcome-based approaches
11 that incorporate, to the maximum extent practicable, voluntary
12 programs or approaches. Additionally, stakeholders must examine
13 ways to modify statutory provisions to ensure that regulatory
14 constraints on agricultural activities are used as a last resort if
15 desired outcomes are not achieved through voluntary programs or
16 approaches.

17 (iii) The center must work to achieve agreement among
18 participating stakeholders and to develop a coalition that can be
19 used to support agreed upon changes or new approaches to protecting
20 critical areas during the 2009 legislative session.

21 (4) The center must issue a final report of findings and
22 legislative recommendations to the governor and the appropriate
23 committees of the house of representatives and the senate by
24 September 1, 2008.

25 (5) This section expires September 1, 2008.

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

30 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Deletes most provisions of the underlying committee
amendment.

(2) Specifies that, subject to the availability of amounts
appropriated for this purpose, the William D. Ruckelshaus
Center (Center) must conduct a two-phased examination of the
conflicts between agricultural activities and critical area
ordinances adopted under the Growth Management Act.

(3) Establishes examination requirements that must be met by the Center and stakeholders.

(4) Requires the Center to issue reports meeting specified criteria to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the House and Senate by December 1, 2007, and September 1, 2008, the expiration date for the examination provisions.

(5) Includes an emergency clause.