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SENATE BILL 6144

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 03/01/2007. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to a Pacific Northwest maritime national heritage  
2 area feasibility assessment; creating new sections; and making an  
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** SHORT TITLE. This act may be cited as the  
6 "Pacific Northwest maritime national heritage area feasibility  
7 assessment act."

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** FINDINGS. The legislature finds that:

9 (1) The natural and cultural geography of western Washington is  
10 shaped by the Pacific Ocean, the straits, and the inland waterways of  
11 Puget Sound;

12 (2) For hundreds of years, native peoples relied upon these  
13 interconnected saltwater passages for sustenance and for mobility  
14 within the region and beyond;

15 (3) The first Euro-American immigrants to the area continued to  
16 depend almost exclusively upon these waterways for the movement of  
17 people and goods;

1 (4) The early industries of the region, including logging, mining,  
2 and agriculture, utilized the waterways for commerce even after the  
3 advent of railroads and overland roads;

4 (5) All manner of vessels were designed, built, and maintained on  
5 the shores of western Washington, resulting in the proliferation of  
6 marine and boat building industries;

7 (6) Fisheries, commercial water transport, and recreational boating  
8 became essential to the economic health of the region;

9 (7) Maritime skills and traditions flourished in the form of sail  
10 making, knot work, boat building, woodworking, and maritime art, music,  
11 and storytelling;

12 (8) This maritime culture has left a tangible legacy on the  
13 landscape of western Washington in the form of boatyards, canneries,  
14 coastguard stations, dry docks, ferry landings, lighthouses, marinas,  
15 naval stations, piers, shipyards, wharfs, and all manner of vessels;

16 (9) In today's global economy our traditional maritime culture is  
17 increasingly endangered by the loss of jobs in the maritime industries,  
18 the decline of family fishing, the erosion of maritime skills,  
19 waterfront development pressures, the high cost of historic vessel  
20 preservation, and other factors;

21 (10) Over seventy-five organizations and public agencies in western  
22 Washington currently focus on some aspect of preserving and  
23 interpreting our maritime heritage;

24 (11) Over one hundred historic sites, museums, and attractions  
25 relating to maritime heritage currently exist in western Washington;

26 (12) The communities of Gig Harbor, Grays Harbor, Port Townsend,  
27 Seattle, Tacoma, and others are working tirelessly to create  
28 significant regional maritime heritage centers that collect and steward  
29 important maritime resources, offer high quality educational  
30 programming, and promote heritage tourism;

31 (13) These communities wish to collaborate with other interested  
32 organizations, agencies, tribes, and communities in positioning our  
33 collective maritime heritage as a premier regional attraction and  
34 distinctive cultural amenity; and

35 (14) National heritage areas designated by the United States  
36 congress provide a mechanism to protect, enhance, celebrate, and  
37 promote such assemblages of thematically related natural, cultural,  
38 historic, and scenic resources through local partnerships.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    DEFINITIONS.    The definitions in this  
2 section apply throughout this act unless the context clearly requires  
3 otherwise.

4        (1) "Department" means the department of archaeology and historic  
5 preservation.

6        (2) "Director" means the director of the department of archaeology  
7 and historic preservation.

8        (3) "National heritage area" means a locally managed, congressional  
9 designation that focuses heritage-centered interpretation,  
10 conservation, and development projects over a complex matrix of public  
11 and private land.

12        (4) "Study area" means (a) coastal areas of Washington counties  
13 bordering the Pacific Ocean, including Pacific, Grays Harbor,  
14 Jefferson, and Clallam counties; and (b) coastal areas of Washington  
15 counties bordering on Puget Sound and straits to the north, including  
16 Whatcom, San Juan, Skagit, Island, Snohomish, King, Pierce, Thurston,  
17 Mason, and Kitsap counties.

18        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    PROPOSED PACIFIC NORTHWEST MARITIME NATIONAL  
19 HERITAGE AREA.    (1) The director, in consultation with appropriate  
20 state, tribal, and local governmental agencies, with federal land  
21 managers within the study area, with the advisory group created in  
22 subsection (2) of this section, and with other interested  
23 organizations, shall conduct a preliminary assessment to determine the  
24 feasibility of seeking congressional designation for a Pacific  
25 Northwest maritime national heritage area in western Washington.

26        (2) The director may consult with individuals from the public and  
27 private sector or ask the individuals to establish an advisory  
28 committee. Members of such an advisory committee are not entitled to  
29 expense reimbursement. The advisory committee shall include, but is  
30 not limited to, representatives from the following organizations:

31        (a) 4Culture and Seattle/King county maritime heritage initiative  
32 partners;

33        (b) Foss waterway seaport/working waterfront maritime museum;

34        (c) Gig Harbor peninsula historical society/harbor history museum;

35        (d) Grays Harbor historical seaport authority;

36        (e) Northwest maritime center and wooden boat foundation;

- 1 (f) Pacific Northwest maritime heritage council and member groups;  
2 and  
3 (g) United Indians of all tribes.
- 4 (3) The assessment shall include analysis, documentation, and  
5 determinations on whether:
- 6 (a) The study area:
- 7 (i) Has an assemblage of natural, cultural, scenic, and historic  
8 resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American  
9 heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and  
10 continuing use;
- 11 (ii) Reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folk life that are  
12 a valuable part of the national story;
- 13 (iii) Provides outstanding conservation, recreation, and  
14 educational opportunities;
- 15 (iv) Contains resources that are important to the identified theme  
16 and that retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting  
17 interpretation; and
- 18 (v) Could be managed as an assemblage through partnerships among  
19 public and private entities at the local, regional, state, or federal  
20 level; and
- 21 (b) The residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and  
22 federal, tribal, state, and local governments within the study area:
- 23 (i) Have demonstrated support for designation of a national  
24 heritage area;
- 25 (ii) Are involved in the planning;
- 26 (iii) Support the proposed boundary map;
- 27 (iv) Have developed a conceptual plan outlining roles for all  
28 participants; and
- 29 (v) Have agreed upon a suitable and willing management entity to  
30 plan and implement the project.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** REPORT. Not later than two fiscal years  
32 after the date on which funds are made available to carry out the  
33 assessment, the director shall submit a report setting forth the  
34 findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the director with respect  
35 to the feasibility assessment to the senate committee on natural  
36 resources, ocean and recreation, and to the house committee on  
37 community and economic development and trade.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 6.**   APPROPRIATION.   The sum of one hundred fifty  
2   thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
3   appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, from the general  
4   fund to the department of archaeology and historic preservation for the  
5   purposes of carrying out this act.

6        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 7.**   CAPTIONS.   Captions used in this act are not  
7   any part of the law.

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