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SENATE BILL 6211

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Morton, Jacobsen, Rockefeller, Swecker, and Shin; by request of Department of Natural Resources

Read first time 01/14/08. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington geological survey; and amending  
2 RCW 43.92.010, 43.92.020, and 43.92.040.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.92.010 and 2006 c 340 s 2 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 There shall be a geological survey of the state, to be known as the  
7 Washington geological survey, that shall be under the direction of the  
8 commissioner of public lands who shall have general charge of the  
9 survey, and shall appoint as supervisor of the survey a geologist of  
10 established reputation, to be known as the state geologist.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.92.020 and 2006 c 340 s 3 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13 (1) The geological survey shall have for its objects:

14 ~~((1))~~ (a) An examination of the economic products of the state,  
15 including: Gold, silver, copper, lead, and iron ores, as well as  
16 building stones, clays, coal, and all mineral substances of value;

17 ~~((2))~~ (b) An examination and classification of soils, and the  
18 study of their adaptability to particular crops;

1       ~~((+3))~~ (c) An investigation and report upon the water supplies,  
2       artesian wells, the water power of the state, gauging the streams,  
3       etc., with reference to their application for irrigation and other  
4       purposes;

5       ~~((+4))~~ (d) An examination and report upon the occurrence of  
6       different road building material;

7       ~~((+5))~~ (e) An examination of the physical features of the state  
8       with reference to their practical bearing upon the occupations of the  
9       people;

10       ~~((+6))~~ (f) The preparation of special geological and economic maps  
11       to illustrate the resources of the state;

12       ~~((+7))~~ (g) The preparation of special reports with necessary  
13       illustrations and maps, which shall embrace both the general and  
14       detailed description of the geology and natural resources of the state;  
15       and

16       ~~((+8))~~ (h) The consideration of similar scientific and economic  
17       questions that, in the judgment of the state geologist, is deemed of  
18       value to the people of the state.

19       (2) The geological survey shall:

20       (a) Serve as a bureau of information and an advisory service  
21       concerning geologic resources and hazards, including: Maintenance of  
22       a library, public education program, and geologic database; review of  
23       functions; expert advice to federal, state, and local government  
24       agencies; and operation of a clearinghouse of posthazard event earth  
25       science investigations. The geological survey shall provide technical  
26       assistance to local governments on geological hazards, mineral  
27       resources, and aggregate mining and reclamation during preparation and  
28       amendment of comprehensive plans and land use regulations.

29       (b) Collect geotechnical and related reports prepared by applicants  
30       in support of building construction and land use permits from local  
31       government or state government for use in the development of a  
32       statewide electronic database of subsurface geotechnical data. Copies  
33       of the reports must be submitted to the geological survey by the  
34       applicant at the time of submission to local government;

35       (c) Preserve information collected, developed, or obtained under  
36       this section, RCW 43.92.025, and nonconfidential data collected under  
37       chapters 78.44 and 78.52 RCW in a publicly accessible electronic data  
38       system. The publicly accessible electronic data system must display

1 the surface and subsurface geological and geophysical data using an  
2 interactive map interface for both two and three-dimensional display of  
3 the available data;

4 (d) Establish and maintain a storage and examination facility for  
5 physical samples, including drill cuttings and drill cores from all  
6 types of drill holes, sidewall cores and other special samples from  
7 earth science investigations, significant paper records of earth  
8 science investigations, and other materials considered by the  
9 department to be of long-term value to the state; and

10 (e) Promote outdoor recreation and education through the creation  
11 and dissemination of interpretive materials, including but not limited  
12 to field trip guides, road logs, interpretive displays, and field  
13 excursions for teachers.

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.92.040 and 2006 c 340 s 5 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 ((Regular and special)) Reports, geological maps, geological hazard  
17 assessment maps, mineral resource maps, and special reports of the  
18 geological survey((, with proper illustrations and maps, shall)) must  
19 be distributed as directed by the state geologist as the needs of the  
20 state and science demand. The primary means of distribution must be  
21 through a publicly accessible electronic data system with digital  
22 documents, interactive web pages, and online databases. Reports and  
23 maps may be printed as directed by the state geologist. ((All reports  
24 shall be distributed or sold by the department of natural resources as  
25 the interests of the state and of science demand.)) All money obtained  
26 by the sale of reports under this section shall be paid into the state  
27 treasury.

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