

SSB 6794 - S AMD 142

By Senator Hatfield

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 89.08 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The legislature finds there are several state agencies
6 implementing programs providing incentive programs for landowners to
7 assist them in managing private lands to minimize the negative impacts
8 to the state's natural resources. These programs provide benefits not
9 only to the people of the state through the protection and improvement
10 of shared resources, but also allow private landowners to continue
11 managing their lands. These incentive programs also create
12 opportunities to enhance state natural resource values in an approach
13 that engages landowners as key participants in supporting these
14 activities. Because of the number of incentive programs offered to
15 landowners by state, federal, local, and other entities, the
16 opportunities can be confusing for landowners and these services may
17 not be administered in the most efficient manner possible.
18 Furthermore, the implementation of these programs should be conducted
19 in a manner that ensures these incentive programs resources are
20 improving natural resource conditions. The state conservation
21 commission and conservation districts are ideally situated to
22 coordinate the service delivery of incentive-based natural resources
23 programs to forestry, agricultural, and small acreage landowners in a
24 manner that supports and better uses existing programs at various
25 agencies in a more efficient, targeted, and accountable approach.

26 (2)(a) As the state conservation commission implements existing
27 authority in RCW 89.08.070(6), the commission is directed to work with
28 state, federal, local, and tribal governments, and with nongovernmental
29 organizations, to identify opportunities to more efficiently and
30 effectively implement landowner incentive programs. The commission

1 shall also work with forest and agricultural landowners, including
2 small acreage landowners, on the incentive programs available for the
3 protection, restoration, and enhancement of the state's natural
4 resources. The commission shall coordinate with other state natural
5 resource agencies in the development of the agency's programs that
6 address agricultural landowners and agricultural landowner impacts on
7 natural resources.

8 (b) When implementing this section, the commission shall consider
9 approaches that will:

10 (i) Identify the highest priority natural resource issues for
11 agricultural landowners;

12 (ii) Identify the incentive programs that best serve the needs of
13 the highest priority issues;

14 (iii) Identify more effective ways of implementing existing and new
15 incentive programs to meet the desired natural resource improvements
16 while maintaining or enhancing the potential of working lands in the
17 state; and

18 (iv) Provide for accountability in the cost-efficiency and resource
19 effectiveness of the coordination of these programs.

20 (c) When implementing this section, the commission shall:

21 (i) Use the resources and skills of the various conservation
22 districts throughout the state to engage participation of local
23 landowners in these activities; and

24 (ii) Coordinate with the governor's natural resources cabinet.

25 (3)(a) The commission shall periodically report to the legislature
26 and governor on the status of items in subsection (2)(b) of this
27 section."

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28 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "commission;" strike the
29 remainder of the title and insert "and adding a new section to chapter
30 89.08 RCW."

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