

EHB 2478 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development

ADOPTED 03/01/2016

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The state noxious weed control board
4 shall conduct a pilot project that evaluates the options, methods,
5 and costs of purposefully replacing pollen-rich and nectar-rich
6 noxious weeds, such as knapweeds and nonnative thistles, which are
7 productive forage plants for honey bees, with either native or
8 noninvasive, nonnative forage plants that can produce similar levels
9 of pollen and nectar with a similar bloom succession to support
10 populations of honey bees and other pollinators. The goal of the
11 pilot project is to develop optional guidance and best practices for
12 landowners and land managers faced with the removal of noxious weeds.
13 The pilot project must be developed to maximize the dual public
14 benefits of reducing noxious weeds in Washington and supporting
15 agricultural production through the maintenance of access to
16 seasonally balanced pollen-rich and nectar-rich plants for honey bees
17 and other pollinators.

18 (2)(a) In implementing the pilot project, the state noxious weed
19 control board must coordinate with willing landowners to provide
20 goods or services, such as plant starts and seed packs, necessary to
21 replace noxious weeds with either native or noninvasive, nonnative
22 plants or to create, in conjunction with noxious weed control
23 efforts, new seasonally balanced forage patches for honey bees and
24 other pollinators.

25 (b) Priority in participation in the pilot project must be given
26 to interested private landowners located in areas where the dual
27 benefits of the pilot project can be maximized. However, public
28 landowners or managers may also be considered for participation. No
29 landowner may be required to participate in the pilot project either
30 directly or as a condition of a permit or other governmental action.

1 (3) The implementation details of the pilot project required by
2 this section are at the sole discretion of the state noxious weed
3 control board, including the selection of pilot project partners and
4 participants. However, pilot project partners should be located in
5 both eastern and western Washington. The state noxious weed control
6 board:

7 (a) Shall coordinate with the county noxious weed control boards
8 in which pilot projects are located, unless the county does not have
9 a local noxious weed control board; and

10 (b) May coordinate with the state conservation commission or
11 individual conservation districts in the implementation of the pilot
12 project if the state noxious weed control board finds that
13 coordination would be beneficial.

14 (4) The state noxious weed control board must issue a report to
15 the legislature, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, that outlines the
16 successes and challenges of the pilot project, including the
17 development of the tools in this subsection. This report must be
18 presented by October 31, 2020, and include:

19 (a) A description of the following tools:

20 (i) A list of suitable pollen-rich forage plant alternatives to
21 noxious weeds, taking into account traits such as nectar and pollen
22 quality, bloom succession, growth requirements, and habitat type;

23 (ii) A list of seed and plant start suppliers that may be able to
24 provide pollen-rich forage plant alternatives to noxious weeds. The
25 list may only include suppliers who are willing to ensure the
26 identity and purity of seed through appropriate testing performed or
27 approved by the Washington state department of agriculture or by any
28 other agency authorized under the laws of any state, territory, or
29 possession that has standards and procedures approved by the United
30 States secretary of agriculture to ensure the identity and purity of
31 seed; and

32 (iii) A matrix, based on the pilot project, to provide guidelines
33 to landowners and land managers when replacing noxious weeds or
34 creating new pollen-rich forage patches;

35 (b) An assessment scale that may be used by landowners, land
36 managers, and the apiary industry to rate the usefulness of the tools
37 described in this subsection; and

38 (c) Any recommendations for extending the pilot project or using
39 the lessons learned as part of Washington's overall noxious weed
40 control strategy.

1 (5) This section expires June 30, 2021.

2 **Sec. 2.** RCW 17.10.145 and 1997 c 353 s 18 are each amended to
3 read as follows:

4 (1) All state agencies shall control noxious weeds on lands they
5 own, lease, or otherwise control through integrated pest management
6 practices. Agencies shall develop plans in cooperation with county
7 noxious weed control boards to control noxious weeds in accordance
8 with standards in this chapter.

9 (2) All state agencies' lands must comply with this chapter,
10 regardless of noxious weed control efforts on adjacent lands.

11 (3) While conducting planned projects to ensure compliance with
12 this chapter, all agencies must give preference, when deemed
13 appropriate by the acting agency for the project and targeted
14 resource management goals, to replacing pollen-rich or nectar-rich
15 noxious weeds with native forage plants that are beneficial for all
16 pollinators, including honey bees.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.220
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 Any corps project that involves the removal of noxious weeds
20 must, when deemed appropriate for the project goals by the project
21 sponsor, include the planting of pollen-rich and nectar-rich native
22 plants to provide forage for all pollinators, including honey bees."

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23 On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "pollinators;" strike the
24 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 17.10.145; adding a
25 new section to chapter 43.220 RCW; creating a new section; and
26 providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: Adds requirement for suppliers of seeds included in the
list of suppliers of pollen-rich plant seeds that must be part of the

report, that these suppliers be willing to ensure their seeds' identity and purity by state or otherwise authorized testing.

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