
SENATE BILL 5843

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Ranker, Parlette, Pearson, Rolfes, Hewitt, Litzow, Conway, Hasegawa, and McAuliffe

Read first time 02/05/15. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to outdoor recreation; amending RCW 79A.05.351;
2 adding a new section to chapter 43.06 RCW; and making appropriations.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 79A.05.351 and 2007 c 176 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The outdoor education and recreation grant program is hereby
7 created, subject to the availability of funds in the outdoor
8 education and recreation account. The commission shall establish and
9 implement the program by rule to provide opportunities for public
10 agencies, private nonprofit organizations, formal school programs,
11 nonformal after-school programs, and community-based programs to
12 receive grants from the account. Programs that provide outdoor
13 education opportunities to schools shall be fully aligned with the
14 state's essential academic learning requirements.

15 (2) The program shall be phased in beginning with the schools and
16 students with the greatest needs in suburban, rural, and urban areas
17 of the state. The program shall focus on students who qualify for
18 free and reduced-price lunch, who are most likely to fail
19 academically, or who have the greatest potential to drop out of
20 school.

1 (3) The director shall set priorities and develop criteria for
2 the awarding of grants to outdoor environmental, ecological,
3 agricultural, or other natural resource-based education and
4 recreation programs considering at least the following:

5 (a) Programs that contribute to the reduction of academic failure
6 and dropout rates;

7 (b) Programs that make use of research-based, effective
8 environmental, ecological, agricultural, or other natural resource-
9 based education curriculum;

10 (c) Programs that contribute to healthy life styles through
11 outdoor recreation and sound nutrition;

12 (d) Various Washington state parks as venues and use of the
13 commission's personnel as a resource;

14 (e) Programs that maximize the number of participants that can be
15 served;

16 (f) Programs that will commit matching and in-kind resources;

17 (g) Programs that create partnerships with public and private
18 entities;

19 (h) Programs that provide students with opportunities to directly
20 experience and understand nature and the natural world; (~~and~~)

21 (i) Programs that include ongoing program evaluation, assessment,
22 and reporting of their effectiveness; and

23 (j) Programs that utilize veterans for at least fifty percent of
24 program implementation or administration.

25 (4) The director shall create an advisory committee to assist and
26 advise the commission in the development and administration of the
27 outdoor education and recreation program. The director should solicit
28 representation on the committee from the office of the superintendent
29 of public instruction, the department of fish and wildlife, the
30 business community, outdoor organizations with an interest in
31 education, and any others the commission deems sufficient to ensure a
32 cross section of stakeholders. When the director creates such an
33 advisory committee, its members shall be reimbursed from the outdoor
34 education and recreation program account for travel expenses as
35 provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

36 (5) The outdoor education and recreation program account is
37 created in the custody of the state treasurer. Funds deposited in the
38 outdoor education and recreation program account shall be transferred
39 only to the commission to be used solely for the commission's outdoor
40 education and recreation program purposes identified in this section

1 including the administration of the program. The director may accept
2 gifts, grants, donations, or moneys from any source for deposit in
3 the outdoor education and recreation program account. Any public
4 agency in this state may develop and implement outdoor education and
5 recreation programs. The director may make grants to public agencies
6 and contract with any public or private agency or person to develop
7 and implement outdoor education and recreation programs. The outdoor
8 education and recreation program account is subject to allotment
9 procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not
10 required for expenditures.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.06
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 The governor must appoint and maintain a senior policy advisor to
14 the governor to focus on promoting, increasing participation in, and
15 increasing opportunities for outdoor recreation in Washington.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of one hundred fifty thousand
17 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
18 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, from the general fund to the
19 office of the governor for the purposes of this act.

20 (2) The sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars, or as much
21 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year
22 ending June 30, 2017, from the general fund to the office of the
23 governor for the purposes of this act.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of one million dollars, or as much
25 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year
26 ending June 30, 2016, from the general fund to the office of
27 financial management solely for expenditure into the outdoor
28 education and recreation program account.

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