
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1257

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Kretz, Blake, Taylor, Fitzgibbon, and Buys)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to the release of wild beavers; and amending RCW
2 77.32.585.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.32.585 and 2012 c 167 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The department shall permit the release of wild beavers on
7 public and private lands with agreement from the property owner.

8 (2) The department may limit the release of wild beavers to areas
9 of the state where:

10 (a) There is a low probability of released beavers becoming a
11 nuisance or causing damage;

12 (b) Conditions exist for released beavers to improve, maintain,
13 or manage stream or riparian ecosystem functions; and

14 (c) There is evidence of historic endemic beaver populations.

15 (3) The department may condition the release of beaver to
16 maximize the relocation's success and minimize risk. Factors that the
17 department may condition include:

18 (a) Stream gradient;

19 (b) Sufficiency of the water supply;

20 (c) Stream geomorphology;

21 (d) Adequacy of a food source;

1 (e) Proper site elevation and valley width;
2 (f) Age of the beavers relocated;
3 (g) Times of year for capture and relocation;
4 (h) Requirements for the capture, handling, and transport of the
5 live beavers;
6 (i) Minimum and maximum numbers of beavers that can be relocated
7 in one area; and
8 (j) Requirements for the permit holder to initially provide
9 supplemental food and lodge building materials.
10 (4) The department may require:
11 (a) Specific training for those involved with capture, handling,
12 and release of beavers; and
13 (b) The notification of any potentially affected adjacent
14 landowners before permitting the release of wild beavers.
15 (5) Nothing in this section creates any liability against the
16 state or those releasing beavers nor authorizes any private right of
17 action for any damages subsequently caused by beavers released
18 pursuant to this section.
19 (6) For the purposes of this section, "beaver" means the American
20 beaver (*Castor canadensis*).
21 (7) For the purposes of this section, beavers may only be
22 released to carry out relocation: (a) Between two areas east of the
23 crest of the Cascade mountains; or (b) (~~from an~~) between two areas
24 west of the crest of the Cascade mountains (~~to an area east of the~~
25 ~~crest of the Cascade mountains~~)).

--- END ---