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HOUSE BILL 1257

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State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Kretz, Blake, Taylor, Fitzgibbon, and Buys

Read first time 01/16/17. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

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 specific training for those  
11 involved with capture, handling, and release of beavers.  
12 (5) Nothing in this section creates any liability against the  
13 state or those releasing beavers nor authorizes any private right of  
14 action for any damages subsequently caused by beavers released  
15 pursuant to this section.  
16 (6) For the purposes of this section, "beaver" means the American  
17 beaver (*Castor canadensis*).  
18 (7) For the purposes of this section, beavers may only be  
19 released to carry out relocation: (a) Between two areas east of the  
20 crest of the Cascade mountains; or (b) (~~from an~~) between two areas  
21 west of the crest of the Cascade mountains (~~(to an area east of the~~  
22 ~~crest of the Cascade mountains)~~).

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