

HB 1894 - H AMD 1325

By Representative Dent

ADOPTED 02/16/2020

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

3

4 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The commissioner of public lands
5 must direct the wildland fire advisory committee established in RCW
6 76.04.179 to review, analyze, and make recommendations on the
7 following issues related to wild fire prevention, response, and
8 suppression activities within our state:

9 (a) The committee, with the assistance of department of natural
10 resources' personnel, must approximately quantify the areas in the
11 state that are not contained within an established fire district nor
12 subject to a planned fire response and make recommendations as to
13 how these areas could be protected as well as a source of funding
14 for any recommended activities. In doing so, the committee must, in
15 time for inclusion in the December 31, 2018, status report: Review
16 the relevant recommendations contained in the joint legislative
17 audit and review committee's 2017 final report on fees assessed for
18 forest fire protection; analyze and develop recommendations on
19 potential administrative and legislative actions including, for
20 example, the process proposed in chapter . . . (Substitute Senate
21 Bill No. 6575), Laws of 2018; and consult with any relevant
22 stakeholders, as deemed necessary by the committee, that are not
23 represented on the committee.

24 (b) The committee must examine the value of community programs
25 that educate homeowners and engage in preventive projects within
26 wild fire risk communities, such as firewise, and make
27 recommendations on whether these programs should be advanced, and if

1 so, how, including potential sources of ongoing funding for the
2 programs.

3 (c) The committee must also develop plans to help protect
4 non-English speaking residents during wildfire emergencies. The
5 committee may enlist the assistance from the state ethnic and
6 diversity commissions or any other organizations who have expertise
7 in public outreach to non-English speaking people.

8 (2) The department of natural resources must provide to the
9 appropriate committees of the legislature a status report of the
10 committee's efforts by December 31, 2018, and issue a report with
11 the committee's recommendations by November 15, 2020.

12 (3) In addition to the topics described in subsection (1) of
13 this section, as part of the final report as required by subsection
14 (2) of this section, and subject to the availability of amounts
15 appropriated for this specific purpose, the wildland fire advisory
16 committee must review, analyze, and make recommendations on the
17 following issues related to the establishment of rangeland fire
18 protection associations and other fire protection methods within our
19 state to address unprotected and underprotected lands.

20 (a) The committee, with the assistance of department of natural
21 resources' personnel, must map areas of the state east of the crest
22 of the Cascade mountains that are not within an established fire
23 protection district, nor subject to a planned wildland fire response.

24 (b) The committee, through consultation with landowners, local
25 fire protection districts, wildfire protection agencies, and other
26 interested parties, must identify and make recommendations as to
27 which methods of protection may be best suited for these areas when
28 considering values at risk, including wildlife habitat, available
29 response resources, and geography in the area. Methods of protection
30 may include, but are not limited to, annexation by adjacent fire
31 protection districts, creation of new fire protection districts, and
32 the broadening of the jurisdiction of the department of natural
33 resources.

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1 (c) The committee must make recommendations on the appropriate
2 level of training and the personal protective equipment standards
3 for rangeland fire protection associations.

4 (d) The committee must make an estimate of the costs to
5 establish and maintain rangeland fire protection associations. In
6 addition, the committee must make recommendations for appropriate
7 fees to support the various identified methods of protection,
8 including increasing fire protection district levies and fees
9 collected by the department of natural resources.

10 (4) This section expires December 31, 2020."
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12 Correct the title.
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EFFECT: Moves the due date of the Wildland Fire Advisory
Committee report from November 15, 2019 to November 15, 2020.

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