
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2097

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Kretz, Chapman, Springer, Blake, Pettigrew, Dent, Schmick, Dye, Maycumber, Wilcox, and Corry)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to addressing statewide wolf recovery; amending
2 RCW 16.76.020; adding a new section to chapter 77.36 RCW; and
3 creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) It is the legislature's intent to
6 support full recovery of gray wolves in Washington state in
7 accordance with the department of fish and wildlife's 2011 wolf
8 recovery and management plan and state law. It is also the
9 legislature's intent to support the livestock industry and rural
10 lifestyles and ensure that state agencies and residents have the
11 tools necessary to support coexistence with wolves.

12 (2) The wolf plan requires that the department of fish and
13 wildlife conduct a review of the effectiveness of the plan's
14 implementation every five years. The legislature finds that because
15 the regional recovery goals have been exceeded in the eastern
16 Washington recovery region, but not yet in other regions, it is
17 timely for the department of fish and wildlife to conduct a periodic
18 status review in accordance with WAC 220-610-110 (7) and (8) and
19 recommend to the state fish and wildlife commission whether a change
20 in status is warranted.

1 (3) Furthermore, the legislature recognizes that management of
2 wolf-livestock conflict is key to both wolf recovery and public
3 acceptance of wolves in rural areas and that as the wolf population
4 grows, and even after it achieves recovery, stable and adequate
5 funding for nonlethal wolf deterrence will be needed to support
6 livestock producers and the livestock industry and minimize the need
7 for lethal removal of wolves. As such, it is the intent of the
8 legislature, regardless of the listing status of gray wolves, to
9 continue to sufficiently fund nonlethal deterrents for minimizing
10 depredation of livestock by wolves. Proactive deterrence and
11 community collaboration, as set forth in RCW 16.76.020, are necessary
12 to reduce conflict between wolves and livestock and will be important
13 for maintaining the economic viability of the livestock industry, the
14 state's wolf populations, and public acceptance of wolves in
15 northeast Washington after wolves have recovered and have been
16 delisted.

17 (4) Further, the legislature intends to expand funding and
18 personnel resources in the department of fish and wildlife for
19 similar nonlethal deterrent efforts to mitigate conflicts statewide,
20 as wolves recover in the remainder of the state beyond northeast
21 Washington.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The state department of fish and
23 wildlife shall immediately review the listing status of the gray
24 wolf, *Canis lupus*, as an endangered, threatened, or sensitive species
25 under RCW 77.12.020, or the rules adopted under RCW 77.12.020. The
26 review must determine if Washington's wolf population is no longer in
27 danger of failing, declining, or no longer vulnerable to limited
28 numbers, disease, predation, habitat loss or change, or exploitation,
29 and must examine the relationship between wolf population levels in
30 the eastern Washington recovery region and their role in wolf
31 colonization in the remaining recovery regions. The review required
32 in this section must be based solely on the numerical biological
33 status and preponderance of scientific data available. The department
34 must complete the review by December 31, 2019.

35 (2) If the review required under subsection (1) of this section
36 finds that the gray wolf is no longer in danger of failing,
37 declining, or no longer vulnerable to limited numbers, disease,
38 predation, habitat loss or change, or exploitation, the state fish

1 and wildlife commission shall consider whether a change in listing
2 status is warranted.

3 (3) The state fish and wildlife commission's consideration of the
4 listing status of gray wolves as required by this section must be
5 completed by June 30, 2020.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 77.36
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 The department shall increase staff resources in Ferry and
9 Stevens counties for response to wolf-livestock conflict on an
10 ongoing basis and for coordination with livestock producers on the
11 continued implementation of proactive nonlethal deterrents.

12 **Sec. 4.** RCW 16.76.020 and 2017 c 257 s 3 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) The northeast Washington wolf-livestock management grant is
15 created within the department. Funds from the grant program must be
16 used only for the deployment of nonlethal deterrence resources in any
17 Washington county east of the crest of the Cascade mountain range
18 that shares a border with Canada, including human presence, and
19 locally owned and deliberately located equipment and tools.

20 (2)(a) A four-member advisory board is established to advise the
21 department on the expenditure of the northeast Washington wolf-
22 livestock management grant funds. Advisory board members must be
23 knowledgeable about wolf depredation issues, and have a special
24 interest in the use of nonlethal wolf management techniques. Board
25 members are unpaid, are not state employees, and are not eligible for
26 reimbursement for subsistence, lodging, or travel expenses incurred
27 in the performance of their duties as board members. The director
28 must appoint each member to the board for a term of two years. Board
29 members may be reappointed for subsequent two-year terms. The
30 following board members must be appointed by the director in
31 consultation with each applicable conservation district and the
32 legislators in the legislative district encompassing each county:

33 (i) One Ferry county conservation district board member or staff
34 member;

35 (ii) One Stevens county conservation district board member or
36 staff member;

37 (iii) One Pend Oreille conservation district board member or
38 staff member; and

1 (iv) One Okanogan conservation district board member or staff
2 member.

3 (b) If no board member or staff member qualifies under this
4 section, the director must appoint a resident of the applicable
5 county to serve on the board.

6 (c) Board members may not:

7 (i) Directly benefit, in whole or in part, from any contract
8 entered into or grant awarded under this section; or

9 (ii) Directly accept any compensation, gratuity, or reward in
10 connection with such a contract from any other person with a
11 beneficial interest in the contract.

12 (3) The board must help direct funding for the deployment of
13 nonlethal deterrence resources, including human presence, and locally
14 owned and deliberately located equipment and tools. Funds may only be
15 distributed to nonprofit community-based collaborative organizations
16 that have advisory boards that include personnel from relevant
17 agencies including, but not limited to, the United States forest
18 service and the Washington department of fish and wildlife(~~(, or to~~
19 ~~individuals that are willing to receive technical assistance from the~~
20 ~~same agencies)~~).

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of
22 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
23 provided by June 30, 2019, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
24 act is null and void.

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