

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2097

Chapter 450, Laws of 2019

66th Legislature
2019 Regular Session

GRAY WOLF RECOVERY

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 28, 2019

Passed by the House April 25, 2019
Yeas 97 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 17, 2019
Yeas 43 Nays 5

CYRUS HABIB

President of the Senate

Approved May 21, 2019 2:14 PM

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2097** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

Chief Clerk

FILED

May 21, 2019

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2097

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2019 Regular Session

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 77.12 RCW; adding a
3 new section to chapter 77.36 RCW; and 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 and recommend to the state fish and wildlife commission
19 whether a change in status is warranted.

20 (3) Furthermore, the legislature recognizes that management of
21 wolf-livestock conflict is key to both wolf recovery and public

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

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

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 The department shall implement conflict mitigation guidelines
23 that distinguish between wolf recovery regions, identified in the
24 2011 wolf conservation and management plan, that are at or above the
25 regional recovery objective and wolf recovery regions that are below
26 the regional recovery objective. In developing conflict management
27 guidelines, the department shall consider the provisions of its 2011
28 wolf recovery and management plan, and all regional plans must
29 include proactive nonlethal deterrents regardless of listing status.

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

32 The department shall maintain sufficient staff resources in Ferry
33 and Stevens counties for response to wolf-livestock conflict on an
34 ongoing basis and for coordination with livestock producers on the
35 continued implementation of proactive nonlethal deterrents.

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

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

7 (2) (a) A four-member advisory board is established to advise the
8 department on the expenditure of the northeast Washington wolf-
9 livestock management grant funds. Advisory board members must be
10 knowledgeable about wolf depredation issues, and have a special
11 interest in the use of nonlethal wolf management techniques. Board
12 members are unpaid, are not state employees, and are not eligible for
13 reimbursement for subsistence, lodging, or travel expenses incurred
14 in the performance of their duties as board members. The director
15 must appoint each member to the board for a term of two years. Board
16 members may be reappointed for subsequent two-year terms. The
17 following board members must be appointed by the director in
18 consultation with each applicable conservation district and the
19 legislators in the legislative district encompassing each county:

20 (i) One Ferry county conservation district board member or staff
21 member;

22 (ii) One Stevens county conservation district board member or
23 staff member;

24 (iii) One Pend Oreille conservation district board member or
25 staff member; and

26 (iv) One Okanogan conservation district board member or staff
27 member.

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

31 (c) Board members may not:

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

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

37 (3) The board must help direct funding for the deployment of
38 nonlethal deterrence resources, including human presence, and locally
39 owned and deliberately located equipment and tools. Funds may only be
40 distributed to nonprofit community-based collaborative organizations

1 that have advisory boards that include personnel from relevant
2 agencies including, but not limited to, the United States forest
3 service and the Washington department of fish and wildlife(~~(, or to~~
4 ~~individuals that are willing to receive technical assistance from the~~
5 ~~same agencies)~~).

6 (4) To ensure accountability and efficient use of funds between
7 agencies involved in wolf-livestock management, the department must
8 maintain a list of grants awarded under this section and at least
9 annually share the list with the department of fish and wildlife.

10 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. If specific funding for the purposes of
11 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
12 provided by June 30, 2019, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
13 act is null and void.

Passed by the House April 25, 2019.
Passed by the Senate April 17, 2019.
Approved by the Governor May 21, 2019.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 21, 2019.

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