
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

SSB 5306

Brief Description: Authorizing the department of fish and wildlife to establish disease interdiction and control check stations.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Short, Van De Wege, Nobles and Stanford; by request of Department of Fish and Wildlife).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish voluntary disease interdiction and control check stations.

Hearing Date: 2/20/24

Staff: Robert Hatfield (786-7117).

Background:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is responsible for the management of the state's fish and wildlife resources. Among other duties, the agency must classify wildlife and establish rules and regulations governing the time, place, manner, and methods used to harvest or enjoy fish and wildlife. Specifically, this includes the authority to:

- regulate the importation, transportation, possession, disposal, landing, and sale of fish, shellfish, and wildlife in the state; and
- regulate the prevention and suppression of diseases and pests affecting wildlife, fish, or shellfish.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife may establish disease interdiction and control check stations. These stations may be signed from roadsides, including state highways and interstates. Signage must indicate which diseases or infestations are being investigated, and what fish, wildlife, shellfish, and seaweed are being checked. The signage must be placed in coordination with the Department of Transportation.

Check stations must be operated in a safe manner. A person who encounters a disease interdiction and control check station while transporting fish, wildlife, shellfish, or seaweed in their possession is requested to stop at the check station and allow the fish, wildlife, shellfish, or seaweed in their possession to be inspected and sampled for the diseases or infestations.

The disease interdiction and control check stations would not apply to aquaculture, aquatic farmers, or private sector cultured aquatic products.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.