
SENATE BILL 6262

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators J. Wilson and Keiser

Read first time 01/17/24. Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the Julia Butler Hansen state park
2 heritage center; and adding a new chapter to Title 79A RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

5 (a) The historic home of state representative and later
6 Congresswoman Julia Butler Hansen in Cathlamet is the oldest
7 surviving pioneer structure in Wahkiakum county, is a unique
8 repository of state, federal, and local history and artifacts, and
9 contains unique furnishings, original art, and pioneer artifacts;

10 (b) The home and grounds are unparalleled in significance to the
11 pioneer history of early Washington state and contain artifacts and
12 heirlooms of regional and national significance, including those
13 drawn from the distinguished career of Congresswoman Hansen.
14 Congresswoman Hansen was the first woman in history to chair a
15 congressional appropriations subcommittee and was a close protégé of
16 presidents, including Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B.
17 Johnson. Congresswoman Hansen was an influential transportation
18 leader, a catalyst behind some of the most significant infrastructure
19 in the Pacific Northwest, including the Astoria-Megler bridge.
20 Congresswoman Hansen rose from the Cathlamet town council to embark
21 on a 21-year career in the Washington state legislature followed by a

1 14-year career in the United States congress, and among other things,
2 also served on the Washington state highways commission and its
3 successors;

4 (c) The current Hansen family owner is willing to donate
5 Congresswoman Hansen's former home and grounds to the state, along
6 with substantial portions of the historic inventory, for public
7 ownership and benefit so long as the home can be adequately cared for
8 and open to the public as a state historic site;

9 (d) The Hansen home has been listed on the Washington state
10 historic register for many years with a pending listing on the
11 national register of historic places;

12 (e) The Washington state parks and recreation commission is
13 uniquely qualified to establish and operate Julia Butler Hansen state
14 park heritage center as the commission already successfully operates
15 state heritage sites such as Steptoe Battlefield state park heritage
16 site, Fort Columbia state park, Olmstead Place historical state park,
17 Peace Arch historical state park, Fort Simcoe historical state park,
18 Fort Casey historical state park, and similar sites;

19 (f) Wahkiakum county is underserved regarding state parks and
20 related investments; and

21 (g) Establishing and maintaining the Julia Butler Hansen state
22 park heritage center embodies the public policy articulated by the
23 legislature in RCW 27.34.200. It would be an excellent example of
24 promoting, enhancing, and perpetuating buildings, sites, and
25 artifacts of historic, archaeological, architectural, and cultural
26 significance for the benefit of the people of the state for many
27 generations. It would also provide economic, cultural, and aesthetic
28 benefits to Cathlamet, Wahkiakum county, and the state.

29 (2) For the reasons described in subsection (1) of this section,
30 and to honor and remember the contributions of state representative
31 and Congresswoman Hansen to Washington state and this nation, the
32 legislature intends for the state to accept the donation of her
33 former home, contents, and grounds to establish and maintain the
34 Julia Butler Hansen state park heritage center.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature,
36 with the cooperation of the Hansen family, to create and manage the
37 Julia Butler Hansen state park heritage center to conserve the
38 historic home, contents, and grounds of Julia Butler Hansen and
39 establish a visitor center that will enable the home to be open to

1 the public and to economically and culturally benefit Cathlamet,
2 Wahkiakum county, and the state. The Julia Butler Hansen state park
3 heritage center would honor the public service the former state
4 representative and congresswoman provided to her community, the
5 state, and the nation, as well as preserve and share the unique
6 history, heritage, and culture of the home, contents, and grounds.

7 (2) Upon completion of the conveyance of real property described
8 in this subsection (2), the commission must establish and manage the
9 Julia Butler Hansen state park heritage center conservation site in
10 Cathlamet, Washington. The property to be donated and conveyed to the
11 state to establish the Julia Butler Hansen state park heritage center
12 consists of the house and grounds of the Julia Butler Hansen heritage
13 center at 35 Butler Street. The commission is authorized and directed
14 to receive and acquire the property described in this subsection (2)
15 and any related easements or rights.

16 (3) The commission must develop a management plan in consultation
17 with the state historical society and department of archaeology and
18 historic preservation for the Julia Butler Hansen state park heritage
19 center.

20 (4) (a) As provided for in RCW 79A.05.055, the commission may make
21 provisions for the publication and sale of interpretive and
22 historical materials and literature with respect to the life and
23 accomplishments of Julia Butler Hansen, the history of the Hansen
24 family home, and the history of Wahkiakum county. Proceeds from such
25 sales must be directed to the parks improvement account to benefit
26 the Julia Butler Hansen state park heritage center.

27 (b) It is the intent of the legislature that the Julia Butler
28 Hansen home be preserved, as much as possible, in the condition and
29 with such furnishings as existed during Julia Butler Hansen's
30 lifetime.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act constitute a
32 new chapter in Title 79A RCW.

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