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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2199**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Richards, Leavitt, Ryu, Ramel, Simmons, Reed, Parshley, Zahn, Nance, Bronoske, Morgan, and Bernbaum)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing impacts from derelict vessels; and  
2 reenacting and amending RCW 79.100.010.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 79.100.010 and 2014 c 195 s 604 are each reenacted  
5 and amended to read as follows:

6 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
7 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

8 (1) "Abandoned vessel" means a vessel that has been left, moored,  
9 or anchored in the same area without the express consent, or contrary  
10 to the rules of, the owner, manager, or lessee of the aquatic lands  
11 below or on which the vessel is located for either a period of more  
12 than ((~~thirty~~)) 30 consecutive days or for more than a total of  
13 ((~~ninety~~)) 90 days in any ((~~three hundred sixty five day~~)) 365-day  
14 period, and the vessel's owner is: (a) Not known or cannot be  
15 located; or (b) known and located but is unwilling to take control of  
16 the vessel. For the purposes of this subsection (1) only, "in the  
17 same area" means within a radius of five miles of any location where  
18 the vessel was previously moored or anchored on aquatic lands.

19 (2) "Aquatic lands" means all tidelands, shorelands, harbor  
20 areas, and the beds of navigable waters, including lands owned by the  
21 state and lands owned by other public or private entities.

1 (3) "Authorized public entity" includes any of the following: The  
2 department of natural resources; the department of fish and wildlife;  
3 the parks and recreation commission; a metropolitan park district; a  
4 port district; and any city, town, or county with ownership,  
5 management, or jurisdiction over the aquatic lands where an abandoned  
6 or derelict vessel is located.

7 (4) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

8 (5) "Derelict vessel" means (~~the vessel's owner is known and can~~  
9 ~~be located, and exerts control of~~) a vessel that:

10 (a) Has been moored, anchored, or otherwise left in the waters of  
11 the state or on public property contrary to RCW 79.02.300 or rules  
12 adopted by an authorized public entity;

13 (b) Has been left on private property without authorization of  
14 the owner; (~~or~~)

15 (c) Has been left for a period of seven consecutive days, and:

16 (i) Is sunk or in danger of sinking;

17 (ii) Is obstructing a waterway; or

18 (iii) Is endangering life or property; or

19 (d) Has been in violation of state registration requirements  
20 under RCW 88.02.550 for at least two full annual registration periods  
21 and is prioritized for removal by the department or by an authorized  
22 public entity.

23 (6) "Owner" means any natural person, firm, partnership,  
24 corporation, association, government entity, or organization that has  
25 a lawful right to possession of a vessel by purchase, exchange, gift,  
26 lease, inheritance, or legal action whether or not the vessel is  
27 subject to a security interest.

28 (7) "Ship" means every species of watercraft or other mobile  
29 artificial contrivance, powered or unpowered, intended to be used for  
30 transporting people or goods on water or for floating marine  
31 construction or repair and that exceeds (~~two hundred~~) 200 feet in  
32 length.

33 (8) "Vessel" means every species of watercraft or other mobile  
34 artificial contrivance, powered or unpowered, intended to be used for  
35 transporting people or goods on water or for floating marine  
36 construction or repair and which does not exceed (~~two hundred~~) 200  
37 feet in length. "Vessel" includes any trailer used for the  
38 transportation of watercraft, or any attached floats or debris.

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