S-3506.2

SENATE BILL 5908

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2026 Regular Session

By Senators Short, Wagoner, and J. Wilson

Prefiled 12/17/25. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

AN ACT Relating to public participation requirements for department of fish and wildlife actions; and amending RCW 34.05.514.

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

Sec. 1. RCW 34.05.514 and 2017 c 52 s 12 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through ((~~(4)~~)) (5) of this section, proceedings for review under this chapter shall be instituted by paying the fee required under RCW 36.18.020 and filing a petition in the superior court, at the petitioner's option, for (a) Thurston county, (b) the county of the petitioner's residence or principal place of business, or (c) in any county where the property owned by the petitioner and affected by the contested decision is located.

(2) For proceedings involving institutions of higher education, the petition shall be filed either in the county in which the principal office of the institution involved is located or in the county of an institution's campus if the action involves such campus.

(3) For proceedings conducted by the pollution control hearings board pursuant to chapter 43.21B RCW or as otherwise provided in RCW 90.03.210(2) involving decisions of the department of ecology on applications for changes or transfers of water rights that are the

subject of a general adjudication of water rights that is being litigated actively under chapter 90.03 or 90.44 RCW, the petition must be filed with the superior court conducting the adjudication, to be consolidated by the court with the general adjudication. A party to the adjudication shall be a party to the appeal under this chapter only if the party files or is served with a petition for review to the extent required by this chapter.

(4) For proceedings involving appeals of examinations or evaluation exercises of the board of pilotage commissioners under chapter 88.16 RCW, the petition must be filed either in Thurston county or in the county in which the board maintains its principal office.

(5) For proceedings involving petitions for review of an agency action regarding wildlife management and wildlife interaction by the fish and wildlife commission and the department of fish and wildlife, the petition must be filed in the county where the wildlife in question is located.

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