

HB 1797-S2 - DIGEST

(AS OF HOUSE 2ND READING 3/11/2009)

Requires the William D. Ruckelshaus center, subject to the availability of amounts for this specific purpose and in partnership with the Puget Sound regional council, to: (1) Conduct an examination of trends affecting and policies guiding the maintenance of rural and resource lands in Washington;

(2) Conduct fact-finding and stakeholder discussions with certain participants;

(3) Issue two reports of its fact-finding efforts and stakeholder discussions to the governor and the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate;

(4) Facilitate discussions between the stakeholders for the purposes of identifying options and recommendations for addressing expected growth in a manner that maintains rural character and conserves forest, farm, and natural areas; and

(5) Achieve agreement among participating stakeholders and develop a coalition that can be used to support agreed upon changes or new approaches.

Creates the rural and resource lands study account and declares that the legislature intends for the account to be populated exclusively with nongeneral fund moneys.