
SENATE BILL 5673

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senators McMullen, Metcalf and Owen.

Read first time February 14, 1991. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to a fish and wildlife work force; adding a new
2 chapter to Title 50 RCW; providing an effective date; providing an
3 expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that an increase
6 in unemployment due to the declining timber economy in the state is
7 imminent. The legislature further recognizes that employment
8 opportunities in other natural resource management professions exist
9 and that natural resource enhancements in the areas of fisheries,
10 wildlife, and recreation can bring needed income to distressed local
11 economies in the state. It is the intent of the legislature that
12 displaced timber workers be given training in and opportunities to
13 compete for employment in other resource management professions, and to
14 establish a pilot program in Skagit county to accomplish this
15 objective. The Skagit river represents a potential recreational

1 fishery that, if enhanced, will bring much needed income to Skagit
2 county. Enhancements to the fishery on the Skagit river are planned
3 over the next several years, and workers will be needed to fill these
4 positions. Displaced timber workers will be available to do this
5 work.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
7 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
8 chapter.

9 (1) "Department" means the employment security department.

10 (2) "Dislocated timber worker" means any individual who:

11 (a) Has been terminated or received a notice of termination from
12 employment in a timber-related occupation;

13 (b) Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment
14 compensation benefits; and

15 (c) Is unlikely to return to employment in the individual's
16 principal occupation or previous industry because of a diminishing
17 demand for his or her skills in that occupation or industry.

18 (3) "College" means Skagit Valley Community College.

19 (4) "Local development agency" means the economic development
20 association of Skagit county.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A pilot project shall be established,
22 coordinated jointly by the department and the college, in Skagit
23 county. The project shall be of five years duration.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The college shall develop a training
25 program designed for dislocated timber workers and their spouses, and
26 in doing so, shall:

1 (1) Consult with, at a minimum, the departments of natural
2 resources, ecology, wildlife, and fisheries, the parks and recreation
3 commission, and other state, federal, local, and private employers in
4 Skagit county to determine minimum employment qualifications in the
5 areas of natural resource management and enhancement of the Skagit
6 river; and

7 (2) Develop a program that will provide needed educational skills
8 to dislocated timber workers and their spouses.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department shall contract with the
10 local development agency to coordinate with the college and the
11 departments of wildlife, ecology, natural resources, and fisheries, the
12 parks and recreation commission, and other state, federal, local, and
13 private employers in assisting dislocated timber workers and their
14 spouses in securing education and employment in the natural resource
15 professions. The local development agency shall also provide
16 information on the training program established under section 4 of this
17 act.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The department and the college shall
19 jointly report to the legislature on their progress by November 1 of
20 each year, beginning in 1991 and ending November 1, 1996. This report
21 shall include a college program description, numbers of students,
22 numbers of referrals for existing positions by the local development
23 agency, and numbers of positions filled by dislocated timber workers.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act shall expire January 1, 1997.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act shall
26 constitute a new chapter in Title 50 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
4 effect July 15, 1991.