

SENATE BILL REPORT

EHB 1177

AS OF MARCH 25, 1993

Brief Description: Requiring an evaluation of the potential for wildlife enhancement projects on state rights of way.

SPONSORS: Representatives Jacobsen, R. Fisher, Dunshee, King, Johanson, R. Meyers, J. Kohl, Springer and Orr

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Jeff Doyle (786-7322)

Hearing Dates: April 1, 1993

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Transportation (DOT) currently has no program to encourage wildlife habitat along DOT-managed rights of way. The DOT employs a biologist within the highway maintenance office, but primarily for technical assistance on mitigation projects.

At least one other state has begun to construct "bird houses" along state-owned rights of way, primarily behind billboards. Early observations from the project indicate an increase in the bird population in that area.

A private organization has constructed and installed one bird house along a DOT right of way (Interstate 90) near Cle Elum.

SUMMARY:

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is directed to evaluate the potential for wildlife enhancement projects along three state rights of way, with particular emphasis on raptor habitat (birds). The DOT must report back to the Legislature by December 1, 1993, on locations for potential projects, types of projects, and the cost of implementing projects.

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: none requested