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HOUSE BILL 1762

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives R. Johnson, Thomas, Valle, Wolfe, Rust, Roland, Pruitt, King and Jacobsen

Read first time 02/08/93. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to access to rivers for recreational purposes;  
2 creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that river recreation  
5 opportunities are an outstanding part of Washington's outdoor  
6 recreation spectrum. The legislature also finds that recreationists  
7 wanting to get to rivers are often trespassing on private lands or  
8 accessing the rivers from the edges of public roadways or street ends.  
9 Overuse at the few existing public access facilities is resulting in  
10 overcrowding and abuse to the shoreline environment. Increased growth  
11 pressure in Washington will likely lead to increased demand for river  
12 recreational opportunities. The legislature finds that there is a need  
13 to identify river recreational needs and to begin planning for future  
14 safe and legal opportunities for river access.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington state parks and recreation  
16 commission shall examine the current use of the state's rivers for  
17 recreational purposes, the existing amount of river access, and the

1 need for additional or improved public river access sites and  
2 facilities. Specifically, the commission shall:

3 (1) Identify outstanding recreational river stretches and boating  
4 reaches state-wide;

5 (2) Identify existing river access opportunities and produce a  
6 state-wide river recreation map. The commission shall also identify  
7 lands currently in public ownership that could be developed for  
8 appropriate public access and use;

9 (3) Assess areas of overuse and trespass, and identify areas of  
10 concern for private property owners owning property along or near  
11 rivers;

12 (4) In areas where there is substantial community interest in  
13 cooperative planning, explore opportunities for river corridor  
14 recreational plans that consider public access, conservation of the  
15 river as a resource, and protection of private lands; and

16 (5) Evaluate the concept, feasibility, and appropriateness of user  
17 or access fees for river recreationists.

18 In conducting this study, the commission shall solicit input and  
19 recommendations from the interagency committee for outdoor recreation,  
20 the department of natural resources, interested county and city  
21 governments, and other agencies with recreational lands or programs.

22 The commission's study may be used as a basis for developing a  
23 state-wide strategy for river recreational opportunities.

24 The commission shall report its findings and conclusions to the  
25 legislature by December 1, 1994.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or  
27 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium  
28 ending June 30, 1995, from the general fund to the Washington state  
29 parks and recreation commission for the purposes of conducting a study  
30 of the current use of the state's rivers for recreational purposes, the  
31 existing amount of river access, and the need for additional or  
32 improved public river access sites and facilities.

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