
HOUSE BILL 2741

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Linville, Pruitt, King, Rust, Valle, R. Johnson, Roland, Rayburn, R. Meyers, J. Kohl, Kremen, L. Johnson and Karahalios

Read first time 01/21/94. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to coordinated, watershed-based natural resource
2 planning; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Comprehensive planning for the management of natural resources
6 on a watershed basis is desirable because it has the potential to
7 address multiple concerns in an integrated and efficient manner;

8 (2) Implementation of watershed-based planning can be complicated
9 by multiple land ownerships, different management missions and
10 objectives, different ways of collecting information, and legal
11 constraints such as federal and state antitrust statutes;

12 (3) Many different entities, including federal, state and local
13 governments and tribes and landowners, are already conducting
14 watershed-based planning, research, and monitoring programs;

15 (4) It is critically important to ensure the efficient use of
16 scarce financial resources by avoiding overlap and duplication of
17 effort among watershed-based planning efforts;

18 (5) There exists a compelling need for coordination of these
19 various watershed-based planning efforts and for a consistent process

1 for collecting and sharing information and data among all interested
2 parties; and

3 (6) There also exists a compelling need to identify regional
4 natural resource goals and objectives as a clear direction for future
5 planning efforts.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) State agencies involved in watershed-
7 based natural resource planning efforts shall coordinate their planning
8 processes. These cooperating state agencies shall include, but not be
9 limited to, the departments of natural resources, agriculture, ecology,
10 fish and wildlife, and community, trade, and economic development; the
11 Puget Sound water quality authority; and the office of the governor.
12 These agencies are encouraged to meet as a group and to include at
13 those meetings representatives of federal agencies, local governments,
14 tribes, private landowners, environmental groups, and other interested
15 parties.

16 (2) The commissioner of public lands shall coordinate discussions
17 of watershed-based natural resource planning among these various
18 parties. The department of natural resources will provide a reasonable
19 level of staff support for the work of the group.

20 (3) On or before December 15, 1994, the department of natural
21 resources shall report to the legislature on behalf of the cooperating
22 state agencies and other involved parties. At a minimum this report
23 shall include:

24 (a) Identification of barriers to coordination and cooperation in
25 watershed-based planning and management of natural resources;

26 (b) Recommendations on the collection, storage, and maintenance of
27 information in watershed level analysis, planning, monitoring, and
28 research programs. These recommendations could lead to the
29 establishment of protocols governing data collection and information
30 exchange;

31 (c) Identification of actual and potential overlap and duplication
32 of effort in watershed-based natural resource planning efforts;

33 (d) Identification of gaps of coverage in existing and proposed
34 watershed planning projects;

35 (e) Examination of the possible establishment of a central
36 depository and of a process for periodically updating and distributing
37 information on watershed-based natural resource planning efforts;

1 (f) Identification of regional results-oriented natural resource
2 management goals and objectives to be submitted to the legislature for
3 possible adoption as state policy; and

4 (g) Recommendations on how to support local integrated watershed
5 management plans and implementation strategies within the context of
6 regional goals and objectives.

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