

2 **SSB 5104 - H AMD 624 ADOPTED 4-18-97**

3 By Representative Schoesler

4

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that pheasant  
8 populations in eastern Washington have greatly decreased from their  
9 historic high levels and that pheasant hunting success rates have  
10 plummeted. The number of pheasant hunters has decreased due to reduced  
11 hunting success. There is an opportunity to enhance the pheasant  
12 population by release of pen-reared pheasants and habitat enhancements  
13 to create increased hunting opportunities on publicly owned and managed  
14 lands.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is created within the department the  
16 eastern Washington pheasant enhancement program. The purpose of the  
17 program is to improve the harvest of pheasants by releasing pen-reared  
18 rooster pheasants on sites accessible for public hunting and by  
19 providing grants for habitat enhancement on public or private lands  
20 under agreement with the department. The department may either  
21 purchase rooster pheasants from private contractors, or produce rooster  
22 pheasants from department-sanctioned cooperative projects, whichever is  
23 less expensive, provided that the pheasants released meet minimum  
24 department standards for health and maturity. Any surplus hen  
25 pheasants from pheasant farms or projects operated by the department or  
26 the department of corrections for this enhancement program shall be  
27 made available to landowners who voluntarily open their lands to public  
28 pheasant hunting. Pheasants produced for the eastern Washington  
29 pheasant enhancement program must not detrimentally affect the  
30 production or operation of the department's western Washington pheasant  
31 release program. The release of pheasants for hunting purposes must  
32 not conflict with or supplant other department efforts to improve  
33 upland bird habitat or naturally produced upland birds.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    The commission must establish special  
2 pheasant hunting opportunities for juvenile hunters in eastern  
3 Washington for the 1998 season and future seasons.

4        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    Beginning September 1, 1997, a person who  
5 hunts for pheasant in eastern Washington must pay an annual surcharge  
6 of ten dollars, in addition to other licensing requirements. Funds  
7 from the surcharge must be deposited in the eastern Washington pheasant  
8 enhancement account created in section 5 of this act.

9        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    The eastern Washington pheasant enhancement  
10 account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts  
11 under section 4 of this act must be deposited in the account. Moneys  
12 in the account are subject to legislative appropriation and shall be  
13 used for the purpose of funding the eastern Washington pheasant  
14 enhancement program. The department may use moneys from the account to  
15 improve pheasant habitat or to purchase or produce pheasants. Not less  
16 than eighty percent of expenditures from the account must be used to  
17 purchase or produce pheasants. The eastern Washington pheasant  
18 enhancement account funds must not be used for the purchase of land.  
19 The account may be used to offer grants to improve pheasant habitat on  
20 public or private lands that are open to public hunting. The  
21 department may enter partnerships with private landowners, nonprofit  
22 corporations, cooperative groups, and federal or state agencies for the  
23 purposes of pheasant habitat enhancement in areas that will be  
24 available for public hunting.

25        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    The department of fish and wildlife must  
26 jointly investigate with the department of corrections the feasibility  
27 of producing pheasants for the eastern Washington pheasant enhancement  
28 program utilizing inmate labor and facilities at the Walla Walla state  
29 penitentiary or other eastern Washington state correctional facilities.  
30 The investigation must include a comparison of the costs of producing  
31 pheasants at a correctional facility versus the costs of purchasing  
32 pheasants for this enhancement program. The two departments must  
33 report their findings to the senate and house of representatives  
34 natural resources committees on or before January 1, 1998.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.**    Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each  
2    added to chapter 77.12 RCW."

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