

1 **ESSB 6108** - H AMDS TO H APP COMM AMD (H-5320.5/98) **1093 FAILED 3-04-98**
2 By Representatives Doumit and Regala

3 On page 102, line 10, increase the general fund--state
4 appropriation for fiscal year 1998 by \$950,000.

5 On page 102, line 12, increase the general fund--state
6 appropriation for fiscal year 1999 by \$950,000.

7 Adjust the total accordingly.

8 On page 108, after line 35, insert (37) \$950,000 of the general
9 fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 1998 and \$950,000 of the
10 general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 1999 are provided
11 solely for hiring or retaining fisheries patrol officers and wildlife
12 agents to provide better enforcement of the fish and wildlife laws with
13 priority given to areas where aquatic species have been listed or are
14 proposed to be listed under the federal endangered species act (16
15 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.). The legislature finds that the number of
16 commissioned officers who enforced fish and wildlife laws has decreased
17 since the merger of the department of wildlife and the department of
18 fisheries. The legislature finds that as a result of the state's
19 increased population the ratio of population to enforcement officers
20 has increased significantly. The legislature finds that visible
21 enforcement officers in the field act as an incentive for compliance
22 with laws that protect fish and wildlife. The legislature therefore
23 finds that additional fish and wildlife enforcement officers located in
24 the field are needed to protect the state's natural resources. It is
25 therefore the intent of the legislature to restore the number of
26 enforcement officers to the level prior to the merger of the department
27 of fisheries and the department of wildlife be directing the department
28 to deploy more enforcement officers into the field, authorizing the
29 establishment of a volunteer reserve corps of enforcement officers, and
30 providing funding to retain current and hire additional enforcement
31 officers.

32 (38) The director of the department of fish and wildlife shall
33 consult with the exclusive bargaining representatives of employees of

1 the department as well as representatives of local communities for the
2 purpose of preparing a reorganization plan that results in the
3 redeployment of staff from central office positions to field
4 enforcement positions. The department shall also reallocate central
5 office positions that become vacant to field enforcement positions to
6 the extent it is feasible. The reorganization plan shall be prepared
7 with the assistance of the fish and wildlife commission with the
8 objectives of improving the overall efficiency of the department and
9 providing greater protection to fish and wildlife. The fish and
10 wildlife commission shall report to the appropriate legislative
11 committees by December 31, 1998, to describe the progress on the
12 development of the redeployment plan.-

EFFECT: Provides \$1,900,000 to the Department of Fish and Wildlife to hire or retain enforcement officers. WDFW shall prepare a reorganization plan that redeploys staff from the central office to the field and report their progress to the legislature by December 31, 1998.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increases General Fund-State by \$1,900,000.