

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1615

---

---

### As Passed Legislature

**Title:** An act relating to offenses committed in state parks or parkways.

**Brief Description:** Changing provisions relating to offenses committed in state parks or parkways.

**Sponsors:** By House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Alexander, Regala and Sump; by request of Parks and Recreation Commission).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Natural Resources: 2/25/97, 3/5/97 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 3/11/97, 97-0.

Passed Legislature.

---

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 10 members: Representatives Buck, Chairman; Sump, Vice Chairman; Thompson, Vice Chairman; Regala, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander; Anderson; Chandler; Hatfield; Pennington and Sheldon.

**Staff:** Rick Anderson (786-7114).

**Background:** It is unlawful to cut, break, injure, destroy, or take vegetation or natural objects within a state park. The Parks and Recreation Commission does not have authority to prescribe rules to grant exemptions to this law. Berry-picking, environmental education classes, and scientific studies are examples of activities that often violate this law.

**Summary of Bill:** The commission is authorized to adopt rules allowing exemptions to the law prohibiting a cut, break, or take of vegetation or natural objects in state parks.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The commission has adopted policies allowing common sense exemptions but the commission is not technically authorized to grant such exemptions. The bill provides this needed authority.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Representative Gary Alexander, prime sponsor; and Rex Derr, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (in favor).