

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 5138

As Reported By House Committee On:
Natural Resources

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: Senators Oke, Snyder, Swecker and Winsley; by request of Parks and Recreation Commission.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Natural Resources: 3/21/97, 4/3/97 [DP].

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Buck, Chairman; Sump, Vice Chairman; Thompson, Vice Chairman; Regala, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander; Anderson; Hatfield; Pennington and Sheldon.

Minority Report: Without recommendation. Signed by 1 member: Representative Chandler.

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 exceptions to this law. Berry-picking, environmental education classes, and scientific studies are examples of activities that violate this law.

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

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Testimony For: This is a common sense bill. It literally allows people to enjoy the fruits of our state parks.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Senator Bob Oke, prime sponsor; and Rex Derr, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (pro).