

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6250

As of January 30, 1998

Title: An act relating to geoduck diver licenses.

Brief Description: Revising provisions relating to geoduck diver's licenses.

Sponsors: Senators Swecker and Snyder.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources & Parks: 2/3/98.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

Staff: Paul Mabrey (786-7412)

Background: Geoduck may only be harvested by divers using hand-held, manually operated water jet or suction devices. Current law requires that divers must obtain a nontransferrable license in order to commercially harvest geoduck clams.

Summary of Bill: Geoduck licenses are made transferrable from parent to child, from spouse to spouse during marriage, or as a result of divorce or property settlement.

After July 1, 1998, the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife must issue no new geoduck divers licenses unless fewer than 50 persons are eligible for renewal. A person is eligible to renew an existing license only if the person held the license for four of the seven years between 1991 and 1997 and has not subsequently transferred it to someone else; or the person acquired the license by transfer from someone who held the license the previous year and has not subsequently transferred the license to someone else.

If fewer than 50 persons are eligible to renew a license, the director may accept applications for new licenses. The director determines who will be issued a new license by random selection from all qualified applicants. No more than 50 licenses may be issued in any calendar year.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 29, 1998.

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