
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1056

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Hatfield, Pennington, Doumit, Mielke, Johnson, Buck, Kessler, Sheldon, Mastin, Grant, Thompson, DeBolt, Quall, Boldt and Linville)

Read first time 02/21/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to natural area preserves; adding a new section to
2 chapter 79.71 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 79.71 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The property currently designated as the Elk river natural area
7 preserve is transferred from management under chapter 79.70 RCW as a
8 natural area preserve to management under chapter 79.71 RCW as a
9 natural resources conservation area. The legislature finds that upland
10 uses of motorized vehicles do not constitute low-impact public uses
11 within the Elk river natural resources conservation area. The
12 legislature further finds that hunting is a suitable low-impact public
13 use within the Elk river natural resources conservation area. The
14 department of natural resources shall incorporate this legislative
15 direction into the management plan developed for the Elk river natural
16 resources conservation area. The department shall work with the
17 department of fish and wildlife to identify hunting opportunities
18 compatible with the area's conservation purposes.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) There is created the joint select
2 committee on natural area preserves. The joint select committee shall
3 consist of six members, three members from the house of representatives
4 and three members from the senate. The speaker of the house of
5 representatives shall appoint the house of representatives members,
6 appointing at least one member from each caucus. The president of the
7 senate shall appoint the senate members, appointing at least one member
8 from each caucus. The committee shall choose a chair and vice-chair
9 from among its membership.

10 (2) The committee shall conduct a broad review of the natural area
11 preserve program. The committee's review shall include but not be
12 limited to:

13 (a) A review of the current statutes in chapter 79.70 RCW and of
14 the original intent of the legislation creating chapter 79.70 RCW;

15 (b) A review of the existing rules formulated under chapter 79.70
16 RCW and an analysis of the extent to which the rules properly comply
17 with the original legislative intent;

18 (c) An evaluation of what the programs established by chapter 79.70
19 RCW have accomplished and whether these accomplishments are consistent
20 with the original intent of the legislation;

21 (d) Identification of opportunities to provide better public notice
22 regarding any future natural area preserves, including notice of when
23 an area is being considered for designation as a natural area preserve,
24 notice of when the department of natural resources is considering
25 acquiring land for a preserve, and notice and solicitation of public
26 input when the department of natural resources is developing a
27 management plan for a preserve;

28 (e) An evaluation of how natural area preserve designation has
29 interfered with or otherwise impacted neighboring property owners;

30 (f) An evaluation of whether to expand public activities such as
31 hunting and fishing within some or all natural area preserves and a
32 recommendation on how such an expansion might be accomplished; and

33 (g) Other study elements identified by the committee.

34 (3) The joint select committee shall be staffed by senate committee
35 services and the house of representatives office of program research.

36 (4) The joint select committee shall complete its analysis and
37 report its recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 1997.

1 (5) The joint select committee expires April 1, 1998.

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