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HOUSE BILL 1478

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Clements, Buck, Huff, Lisk, Mulliken, McDonald, Honeyford, Sehlin, McMorris, Sump, Sheldon, Parlette, Skinner, Chandler, Kessler, Hatfield and Grant

Read first time 01/28/97. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to feeding wildlife during episodes of severe  
2 winter weather; creating a new section; making an appropriation; and  
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that, during  
6 severe winter weather conditions, big game herds of deer and elk living  
7 on limited winter ranges are at risk of starvation and may be driven to  
8 forage on private property, damaging crops and other vegetation. It  
9 is, therefore, in the public interest to feed deer and elk on an  
10 emergency basis when such conditions occur.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of one million four hundred thirty-  
12 eight thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
13 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1997, from the general  
14 fund to the department of fish and wildlife. The amount appropriated  
15 in this section is provided solely for the emergency feeding of deer  
16 and elk that may be at risk of starvation and are posing a risk to  
17 crops or other private property due to severe winter conditions  
18 beginning in early November 1996 and forecast to continue until March

1 1997. If any of the moneys provided in this section remain unexpended  
2 after March 31, 1997, such moneys shall revert to the general fund to  
3 be expended only for emergency winter feeding as needed when severe  
4 winter weather conditions occur during the biennium ending June 30,  
5 1999, as directed by legislative appropriation.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
7 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
8 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
9 immediately.

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