
HOUSE BILL 2505

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Regala, Buck, Doumit, Linville, Anderson and Cooper

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to an independent science panel; and adding a new
2 chapter to Title 41 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds credible scientific
5 review and oversight is essential for any adaptive management program
6 instituted for salmon recovery to be effective. The legislature
7 recognizes that the best available science for salmon recovery is an
8 evolving science, and requires an independent assessment from trained
9 professionals. The legislature finds that by creating an independent
10 science panel, funds for salmon recovery will be spent in a cost-
11 effective manner and local innovations that prove to be successful can
12 be shared throughout the state.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) An independent science panel is hereby
14 created consisting of five scientists appointed by the governor. The
15 governor shall appoint two of the initial independent science panel
16 members for six-year terms, two of the initial independent science
17 panel members for four-year terms, and the remaining member of the
18 independent science panel for a two-year term. All subsequent

1 appointments to the independent science panel shall be for a term of
2 six years. The independent science panel members shall elect the chair
3 of the panel among themselves every two years.

4 (2) Members of the independent science panel shall have recognized
5 expertise in habitat requirements of salmonids, protection and
6 restoration of salmonid populations, artificial propagation of
7 salmonids, and requirements for healthy ecosystems on a watershed
8 basis.

9 (3) Members of the independent science panel shall be compensated
10 as provided in RCW 43.03.250 and reimbursed for travel expenses as
11 pursuant to RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

12 (4) The governor's office shall provide all necessary
13 administrative support to the independent science panel.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The independent science panel created under
15 section 2 of this act shall have the following responsibilities:

16 (1) Provide scientific advice to natural resources-related state
17 agencies for the development of a state-wide strategy to facilitate
18 protection and restoration of wild salmonids and to restore healthy
19 salmon, steelhead, and trout populations by improving their habitats,
20 including key criteria that represents acceptable standards that must
21 be met;

22 (2) Serve as an independent scientific peer review panel for the
23 development and implementation of comprehensive salmon restoration
24 plans, including the lower Columbia steelhead conservation initiative;

25 (3) Assessing cumulative impacts of land management practices
26 within an evolutionary significant unit upon habitat of threatened or
27 endangered aquatic species;

28 (4) Reporting to the governor and the legislature on adaptive
29 management recommendations after reviewing the implementation of
30 comprehensive salmon restoration plans; and

31 (5) Assisting the governor in the preparation of the annual state
32 of the salmon report.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act constitute
34 a new chapter in Title 41 RCW.

--- END ---