
SENATE BILL 5104

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Oke, Loveland, Hale, Morton, Swecker, Rossi, Snyder, West, Bauer, Haugen and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/15/97. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to game birds; adding new sections to chapter 77.12
2 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that pheasant
5 populations in eastern Washington have greatly decreased from their
6 historic high levels and that pheasant hunting success rates have
7 plummeted. The number of pheasant hunters has decreased due to reduced
8 hunting success. There is an opportunity to enhance the pheasant
9 population by release of pen-reared pheasants and habitat enhancements
10 to create increased hunting opportunities on publicly owned and managed
11 lands.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is created within the department the
13 eastern Washington pheasant enhancement program. The purpose of the
14 program is to improve the harvest of pheasants by releasing pen-reared
15 rooster pheasants on sites accessible for public hunting and by
16 providing grants for habitat enhancement on public or private lands
17 under agreement with the department. The department may either
18 purchase rooster pheasants from private contractors, or produce rooster

1 pheasants from department-operated pheasant farms or department-
2 sanctioned cooperative projects, or both, provided that the pheasants
3 released meet minimum department standards for health and maturity.
4 Pheasants produced for the eastern Washington pheasant enhancement
5 program must not detrimentally affect the production or operation of
6 the department's western Washington pheasant release program. The
7 release of pheasants for hunting purposes must not conflict with or
8 supplant other department efforts to improve upland bird habitat or
9 naturally produced upland birds.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department may utilize moneys from the
11 eastern Washington pheasant surcharge for purposes of improving
12 pheasant habitat. Grants may be offered to improve pheasant habitat on
13 public or private lands that are open to public hunting. The
14 department may enter partnerships with private landowners, nonprofit
15 corporations, cooperative groups, and federal or state agencies for the
16 purposes of pheasant habitat enhancement in areas that will be
17 available for public hunting. Funds from the eastern Washington
18 pheasant surcharge may be used for leasing of land for public pheasant
19 hunting. The eastern Washington pheasant enhancement account funds
20 must not be utilized for the purchase of land.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The commission must establish special
22 pheasant hunting opportunities for juvenile hunters in eastern
23 Washington for the 1998 season and future seasons.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Beginning September 1, 1997, a person who
25 hunts for pheasant in eastern Washington must pay an annual surcharge
26 of ten dollars, in addition to other licensing requirements. Funds
27 from the surcharge must be deposited in the eastern Washington pheasant
28 enhancement account created in section 6 of this act.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The eastern Washington pheasant enhancement
30 account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts
31 under section 5 of this act must be deposited in the account.
32 Expenditures from the account may be used only for the eastern
33 Washington pheasant enhancement program. Only the director of the
34 department or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from

1 the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under
2 chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for expenditures.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The department of fish and wildlife must
4 jointly investigate with the department of corrections the feasibility
5 of producing pheasants for the eastern Washington pheasant enhancement
6 program utilizing inmate labor and facilities at the Walla Walla state
7 penitentiary. The two departments must report their findings to the
8 senate and house of representatives natural resources committees on or
9 before January 1, 1998.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 2 through 6 of this act are each
11 added to chapter 77.12 RCW.

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