
SENATE BILL 5829

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen and Fraser

Read first time 02/14/97. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to the nonindigenous species invasion task force;
2 creating new sections; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the unauthorized
5 introduction of nonindigenous species into Washington state poses a
6 serious economic and environmental threat. Nonindigenous species can
7 have adverse impacts on public health, agriculture and grazing lands,
8 fisheries and waterways, and the functioning of natural ecosystems. It
9 is the intent of the legislature to prevent adverse economic and
10 environmental impacts caused by nonindigenous species through increased
11 cooperation, coordination, and information sharing between state and
12 federal agencies.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A nonindigenous species invasion task
14 force is hereby created. The task force is composed of the director of
15 the department of fish and wildlife or the director's designee, the
16 director of the department of ecology or the director's designee, the
17 commissioner of public lands or the commissioner's designee, and the
18 director of the department of agriculture or the director's designee.

1 The director of the department of fish and wildlife or the director's
2 designee shall serve as chair of the task force. At the chair's
3 discretion, additional task force members, or ex officio members, may
4 be added from other state, tribal, or federal agencies and institutions
5 of higher education. The department of fish and wildlife, the
6 department of ecology, the department of agriculture, and the
7 department of natural resources shall provide staff support for the
8 task force.

9 (2) The purpose of the task force is to:

10 (a) Prevent the establishment of nonindigenous species through
11 improved cooperation, coordination, and information sharing between
12 state and federal agencies;

13 (b) Provide risk and priority assessments regarding nonindigenous
14 species;

15 (c) Allow for the timely and effective response to emergency
16 situations;

17 (d) Provide an efficient and expert mechanism for the eradication
18 of problem invasions; and

19 (e) Report to the legislature on the status of nonindigenous
20 species in Washington and the need for additional legislative action.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The nonindigenous species invasion task
22 force shall conduct a risk and priority assessment of nonindigenous
23 species currently in Washington by January 1, 1998. The assessment
24 shall consider the potential adverse economic and biological impacts of
25 the species, the range and population of the species, and the cost-to-
26 benefit ratio of species management versus eradication. Priority
27 should be placed on those species with adverse economic or biological
28 impacts that can be controlled or eradicated with the least cost and
29 effort.

30 (2) The task force shall develop interagency response plans for
31 those species assessed to be of high priority by July 1, 1998. The
32 response plans must be designed to achieve the goal of nonindigenous
33 species eradication or management at tolerable levels in a timely and
34 effective manner.

35 (3) The task force shall report to the natural resources committees
36 of the house of representatives and the senate on the progress of the
37 task force and the need for additional legislative action by December
38 1, 1998.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The nonindigenous species invasion task
2 force shall appoint an interagency invasion response team by January 1,
3 1998. The purpose of the invasion response team is to provide a
4 comprehensive and timely response to new nonindigenous species
5 introductions. The invasion response team is responsible, if
6 necessary, for first-response action to eradicate or control a newly
7 introduced nonindigenous species, intensified monitoring within the
8 region of the invasion, quantifying the extent of the invasion, and
9 monitoring of progress after treatment.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
11 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
12 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
13 immediately.

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