
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6245

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment (originally sponsored by Senators Swecker and Winsley)

Read first time 02/06/98.

1 AN ACT Relating to the enhancement of riparian habitat adjacent to
2 cropped or pastured areas; adding a new section to chapter 43.06 RCW;
3 creating new sections; providing an expiration date; and declaring an
4 emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

7 (a) An existing federal program is available to states willing to
8 make an additional state contribution that will provide incentives to
9 owners of pasture and crop land for the protection and enhancement of
10 riparian areas adjacent to lakes, streams, and rivers in the state;

11 (b) The activation of this program will aid in the ability to
12 enhance and restore habitat for fish species that have been or may be
13 listed under the federal endangered species act and to improve the
14 quality and temperature of water in bodies of water that do not
15 currently meet water quality standards;

16 (c) Because there is a limitation on the number of acres that may
17 be enrolled in the federal program on a nation-wide basis, the state
18 needs to act expeditiously so that the opportunity to obtain the
19 benefits of the program will not be lost due to inaction; and

1 (d) The conservation reserve state enhancement program provides an
2 array of options to enhance riparian areas including the voluntary
3 enrollment on a lease basis of riparian lands by land owners for ten to
4 fifteen years and providing cost share for the optional planting of
5 suitable trees and shrubs and construction of fencing that will restore
6 and enhance fish habitat, filter sediments, and provide shading to
7 improve water temperature conditions.

8 (2) It is the intent of the legislature to authorize the
9 formulation of a memorandum of agreement between the state of
10 Washington, the United States department of agriculture, and the
11 commodity credit corporation. It is the intent that this program be
12 available to landowners on a voluntary basis and also be available to
13 lands located within tribal reservations.

14 (3) The advisory committee shall, in formulating a recommended
15 program for protection of riparian areas, consider cost-effective ways
16 to provide for long-term protection of riparian areas beyond the ten to
17 fifteen-year period of the lease agreement including the voluntary
18 acquisition of permanent easements for riparian areas.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A conservation reserve state enhancement
20 program advisory committee is established. The committee shall
21 include: A representative appointed by the directors of the department
22 of agriculture, the department of fish and wildlife, the department of
23 ecology, and the state conservation commission; two members of the
24 senate, one from each of the two largest caucuses, appointed by the
25 president of the senate; and two members of the house of
26 representatives, one from each of the two largest caucuses, appointed
27 by the speaker of the house of representatives. Additionally, the
28 governor shall appoint additional members that represent agricultural
29 organizations, environmental organizations, county governments, and
30 tribal governments. Representatives from appropriate federal agencies
31 may be invited by the governor to participate. The advisory committee
32 shall elect a person to serve as chair of the committee. The governor
33 shall make appropriate provisions for staffing the committee. The
34 committee shall hold its first meeting by June 1, 1998.

35 (2) The purpose of the committee is to provide comments to the
36 governor on specific provisions that should be included in the
37 conservation reserve state enhancement program and the associated
38 memorandum of agreement. The governor may establish a deadline for the

1 work of the committee to be finished. The governor may enter into a
2 memorandum of understanding with the appropriate federal agencies to
3 institute the program. The governor is encouraged to consider having
4 the program administered by existing federal agencies to minimize
5 administrative expenses.

6 (3) This section expires December 31, 1998.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.06 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 The governor may enter into agreements with the federal government
10 to participate in funding of the conservation reserve state enhancement
11 program.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
13 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
14 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
15 immediately.

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