
SENATE BILL 6245

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senator Swecker

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

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; and providing an expiration date.

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

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

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

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

15 (c) Because there is a limitation on the number of acres that may
16 be enrolled in the federal program on a nation-wide basis, the state
17 needs to act expeditiously so that the opportunity to obtain the
18 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 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A conservation reserve state enhancement
15 program advisory committee is established. The committee shall
16 include: A representative appointed by the directors of the department
17 of agriculture, the department of fish and wildlife, the department of
18 ecology, and the state conservation commission; two members of the
19 senate, one from each of the two largest caucuses, appointed by the
20 president of the senate; and two members of the house of
21 representatives, one from each of the two largest caucuses, appointed
22 by the speaker of the house of representatives. Additionally, the
23 governor shall appoint additional members that represent agricultural
24 organizations, environmental organizations, county governments, and
25 tribal governments. Representatives from appropriate federal agencies
26 may be invited by the governor to participate. The advisory committee
27 shall elect a person to serve as chair of the committee. The governor
28 shall make appropriate provisions for staffing the committee. The
29 committee shall hold its first meeting by June 1, 1998.

30 (2) The purpose of the committee is to provide comments to the
31 governor on specific provisions that should be included in the
32 conservation reserve state enhancement program and the associated
33 memorandum of agreement. The governor may establish a deadline for the
34 work of the committee to be finished. The governor may enter into a
35 memorandum of understanding with the appropriate federal agencies to
36 institute the program. The governor is encouraged to consider having
37 the program administered by existing federal agencies to minimize
38 administrative expenses.

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

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

4 The governor may enter into agreements with the federal government
5 to participate in funding of the conservation reserve state enhancement
6 program to a maximum of twenty percent of the program's total cost and
7 may include a combination of new funding and the redirection of
8 existing appropriations.

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