
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6410

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Rossi, Snyder, Swecker, T. Sheldon, Stevens, Morton and Hargrove)

Read first time 02/04/98.

1 AN ACT Relating to redeployment of personnel in the department of
2 fish and wildlife; 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 a good-faith
5 reorganization of the department of fish and wildlife is necessary in
6 order to meet the challenges facing fish and wildlife resources in the
7 coming century. The imminent crisis involving threatened or endangered
8 salmonid listings under the federal endangered species act requires
9 immediate legislative action to authorize redeployment of human
10 resources from noncritical administrative functions into useful field
11 positions that are necessary to expedite species recovery efforts. The
12 legislature recognizes that the merger of the department of fisheries
13 and the department of wildlife resulted in personnel inconsistencies
14 and redundancies. Authority to reorganize the department's work force
15 is justified to assure that the work of the department is carried out
16 effectively and efficiently and that the state's natural resources are
17 maximally protected and competently managed.

18 The department of fish and wildlife shall reorganize to become more
19 efficient in the management and protection of the natural resources

1 under its authority. The reorganization is needed to achieve the
2 immediate goals of efficiency and efficacy that the merger of the
3 department of fisheries and the department of wildlife sought to
4 accomplish. As a vital component of the reorganization, redeployment
5 of administrative personnel from central office positions to field
6 office positions is needed. Redeployment will provide a more direct
7 link between an employee's job skills and the application of those
8 skills to the improvement of the natural resource being managed.

9 Redeployment shall serve to increase the field presence of the
10 department without increasing full-time equivalent employees in the
11 agency.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The director of the department of fish and
13 wildlife, in conjunction with the fish and wildlife commission, shall
14 begin a good-faith reorganization to achieve the objective of this act
15 on or before July 1, 1998. The good-faith reorganization shall meet an
16 immediate goal of providing more staff resources for protection and
17 enhancement of threatened or endangered fish and wildlife species, and
18 a long-term goal of improving the efficiency in management of all
19 species under the authority of the department.

20 The director shall confer with the governor's office and the
21 department of personnel to reasonably assure that the needs of fish and
22 wildlife resource management are met in a way that is compassionate and
23 fair to the professional needs of the redeployed employees.

24 The fish and wildlife commission shall report to the appropriate
25 committees of the legislature on or before December 31, 1998, to
26 describe the progress of the good-faith reorganization.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The director of the department of fish and
28 wildlife shall confer with the union organizations that represent
29 employees of the department for the purpose of expediting the
30 implementation of the good-faith reorganization and addressing issues
31 that concern redeployed employees.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
33 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
2 immediately.

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