
SENATE BILL 6410

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Rossi, Snyder, Swecker, T. Sheldon, Stevens, Morton and Hargrove

Read first time 01/19/98. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

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 marginally effective administrative functions into
11 useful field positions that are necessary to expedite species recovery
12 efforts. The legislature recognizes that the merger of the department
13 of fisheries and the department of wildlife resulted in personnel
14 inconsistencies and redundancies. Authority to reorganize the
15 department's work force is justified to assure that the work of the
16 department is carried out effectively and efficiently and that the
17 state's natural resources are maximally protected and competently
18 managed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
35 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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