
BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: H-4960.2/00 2nd draft

ATTY/TYPIST: KB:ads

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

2 SSB 6552 - H COMM AMD
3 By Committee on Natural Resources

4

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the population
8 of the Puget Sound region will grow by more than a million and a half
9 by 2020, and that current and new residents will seek greater
10 opportunities for outdoor recreation within a reasonable distance from
11 their homes. Changing demographics, healthier and more active
12 lifestyles, and improvements in recreation technology will all lead to
13 growing public demand for areas and facilities in which to recreate.
14 The west slope Cascade foothills, from the international border south
15 through Thurston county, provide a wealth of existing and potential
16 outdoor recreation areas that are close to the great majority of the
17 urbanized areas of Puget Sound. Within this area are many public
18 lands, including state park units, that may provide the nucleus for a
19 network of lands accessible for diverse recreational uses by people of
20 all ages, physical capacities, and recreational preferences.

21 The legislature further finds that the Cascade foothills are home
22 to many permanent residents who benefit from the natural resource and
23 lifestyle amenities of the foothills, and that expanding recreational
24 opportunities in the foothills must be consistent with the long-term
25 sustainability of the local economies. The west slope Cascade
26 foothills also are an integral part of the "mountains to sound" region
27 and provide significant benefits to the entire region, including
28 watershed protection, wildlife habitat, flood damage reduction, and
29 scenic values. A review of outdoor recreational needs and
30 opportunities in the foothills should include consideration of these
31 benefits and the need for protection of these functions and values.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) As used in this section and section 1 of
33 this act, "Cascade foothills," "west slope Cascade foothills," and
34 "Cascade foothills area" means the generally nonurbanized area within
35 the Cascade mountain range and drainages lying between three hundred

1 and three thousand feet above mean sea level, and located within the
2 counties of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce, and Thurston.
3 Lands lying at lower elevations that are in the immediate vicinity of
4 the foothills area, such as lower drainages, are also included within
5 this term. These lands include public lands that are devoted to
6 developed, nonrecreational uses. This definition is provided solely to
7 guide the parks and recreation commission in the geographic scope of
8 its study responsibilities and confers no authority upon any entity
9 other than the commission for the study purposes of this section.

10 (2) The Washington state parks and recreation commission shall
11 review and make recommendations to the legislature and governor on the
12 existing and future outdoor recreational needs and opportunities in the
13 west slope Cascade foothills, recognizing the important functions and
14 values that are provided by these lands. These include wildlife
15 habitat, watershed protection, flood damage protection, scenic
16 enjoyment, and economic uses, as well as the means by which more
17 effective use of existing public lands in the foothills, assisted by
18 willing private providers of outdoor recreation facilities, may serve
19 to meet these needs. To this end the study should include:

20 (a) An assessment of the existing and the twenty-year growth
21 projection for recreational demand of the population residing within
22 one-hour driving time from the Cascade foothills. This assessment
23 shall include the types of recreational uses anticipated, demographic
24 projections of recreational users, and developed facilities needed to
25 serve such uses;

26 (b) An inventory of existing facilities and lands accessible for
27 recreational use within the Cascade foothills;

28 (c) A review of existing local, regional, state, federal, private,
29 and nongovernmental nonprofit entities providing outdoor recreation
30 opportunities within the Cascade foothills and their coordination in
31 meeting public outdoor recreation demand, as well as the role of public
32 education of recreational users to avoid land damage;

33 (d) A review of state lands within the Cascade foothills that may
34 be managed principally or in part for outdoor recreation uses as a unit
35 of a Cascade foothills state park, and recommendations for
36 transitioning to such management;

37 (e) A compilation of materials, obtained at no cost by the
38 commission from other government agencies and private entities, of
39 existing wildlife and conservation functions and values, which could be

1 used in future evaluations of the compatibility of proposed
2 recreational uses and activities;

3 (f) Recommendations for regional coordination among public and
4 private outdoor recreation providers to promote expanded outdoor
5 recreation opportunities within the Cascade foothills; and

6 (g) Methods to fund local, regional, and state outdoor recreation
7 programs and facilities within the Cascade foothills.

8 (3) In conducting the study, the Washington state parks and
9 recreation commission should consult with the counties and cities
10 within the Cascade foothills area, with other public and private land
11 managers providing outdoor recreation opportunities to the public, and
12 with organizations having an interest in the management, conservation,
13 and use of public lands in the Cascade foothills.

14 (4) The Washington state parks and recreation commission may accept
15 contributions of funds or services to assist in conducting the study.

16 (5) The Washington state parks and recreation commission shall
17 provide its report covering subsection (2)(a) through (e) of this
18 section to the governor and the senate natural resources, parks and
19 recreation committee and the natural resources committee of the house
20 of representatives no later than nine months after having received,
21 through appropriation or contribution, one hundred thousand dollars to
22 cover the costs of the study. A final report, including
23 recommendations covering subsection (2)(f) and (g) of this section,
24 shall be provided by July 1, 2002.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
27 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
28 April 15, 2000."

29 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Delays the timing of the recommendations to nine months
after the Parks and Recreation Commission receives one hundred thousand
dollars to conduct the study, either by appropriation or contribution.
Delays the timing for recommendations pertaining to coordinating and
funding regional outdoor recreation until the final report. Extends
the deadline for the final report to July 1, 2002.

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