

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1755

---

As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation, March 25, 1999

**Title:** An act relating to fish and wildlife equipment.

**Brief Description:** Creating the fish and wildlife equipment fund.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Buck, Regala, Clements, Doumit and Haigh; by request of Department of Fish and Wildlife).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation: 3/22/99, 3/25/99 [DP-WM].

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS & RECREATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Jacobsen, Chair; T. Sheldon, Vice Chair; Hargrove, Morton, Oke, Rossi, Spanel and Stevens.

**Staff:** Vic Moon (786-7469)

**Background:** A number of different revolving funds exist in state government and local government to accomplish certain tasks. These funds may be appropriated or non-appropriated. For example, the Department of Natural Resources is authorized to expend moneys without appropriation from the natural resources equipment fund for the purchase of equipment, machinery, and supplies for the department, and for the repair and maintenance of equipment, machinery and supplies. All expenditures from the fund must be reimbursed by the department. All equipment, machinery, and supplies of the department are deemed to have been purchased by the natural resources equipment fund for reimbursement purposes.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife does not have similar authority to utilize a non-appropriated revolving fund for equipment.

**Summary of Bill:** The fish and wildlife equipment fund is created in the custody of the State Treasurer as a non-appropriated revolving fund for use by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Expenditures from the fish and wildlife equipment fund may be made for salaries, wages, and operations required for purchasing, repairing, replacing, and operating equipment used for the purposes authorized. The equipment may be used for administration, maintenance, and construction of fish and wildlife lands and facilities; administration and maintenance of lands under department control; administration, maintenance, and construction of projects that will enhance fish and wildlife; and administration, biological assessment, and enforcement necessary to carry out the fish and wildlife laws. Projects that will enhance fish

and wildlife include volunteer cooperative projects, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFEG) projects, and salmon recovery projects. The department may purchase and sell equipment, materials, and supplies through the fund.

All existing and after-acquired equipment of the Department of Fish and Wildlife is deemed to have been purchased from the fish and wildlife equipment fund. Equipment purchased with general fund appropriations may be transferred into the fish and wildlife equipment fund with or without charging the fish and wildlife equipment fund.

Equipment may be rented to any federal, state, county, city, or governmental agency, volunteer cooperatives, RFEGs, and entities engaged in salmon recovery. The fish and wildlife equipment fund must be credited with a reasonable rental for the equipment. The terms and charges for the rentals are solely within the discretion of the department.

RFEGs may keep equipment and materials purchased for less than \$5,000 from an RFEG account without a charge-back to the fish and wildlife equipment fund. The department and the RFEG Advisory Board must develop guidelines regarding these purchases.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on March 19, 1999.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The equipment funds of the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation work well and provide a more efficient and cost saving approach than the method currently used. Regional fisheries enhancement groups may keep equipment they have paid for if purchased for less than \$5,000. An equipment fund provides better tracking of agency costs and purchases, and while it is not appropriated, it is subject to audit.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** PRO: Representative Jim Buck; Lembit Ratassepp, Department of Fish and Wildlife.