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HOUSE BILL 1612

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Eickmeyer, Huff, Haigh, Alexander, Rockefeller, Anderson, Pennington, Ericksen, Talcott, Lantz, Stensen and Romero

Read first time 02/01/1999. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to geoduck diver licenses; and amending RCW  
2 75.28.750.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 75.28.750 and 1993 c 340 s 24 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) Every diver engaged in the commercial harvest of geoduck clams  
7 shall obtain a ((nontransferable)) geoduck diver license.

8 (2) After July 1, 1999, the director shall issue no new geoduck  
9 diver licenses unless fewer than fifty persons are eligible for  
10 renewal. A person may renew an existing license only if the person  
11 held a geoduck diver license for five of the eight years 1991 through  
12 1998 or acquired the license by transfer from someone who held it  
13 during the previous year, and if the person has not subsequently  
14 transferred the license to another person.

15 (3) If fewer than fifty persons are eligible to renew a geoduck  
16 diver license, the director may accept applications for new licenses.  
17 The department shall adopt rules and procedures to determine whether  
18 additional diver licenses will be issued and the application procedure.  
19 The director shall determine by random selection, from all otherwise

1 qualified applicants, the successful applicants for any additional  
2 licenses.

3 (4) When the person failed to obtain the license during the  
4 previous year because of a license suspension, the person may qualify  
5 for a license by establishing that the person held such a license  
6 during the last year in which the license was not suspended.

7 (5) Geoduck diver licenses are transferable only to a natural  
8 person. The license holder must perform the actual harvesting.

9 (6) Licensed geoduck harvesters will bear the responsibility for  
10 providing the labor to plant onto state commercial beds geoduck seed  
11 provided by the state hatchery.

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