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HOUSE BILL 2035

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State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Sullivan and Ericksen

Read first time 02/15/1999. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1            AN ACT Relating to the creation of county marine resource  
2 committees; adding a new section to chapter 36.01 RCW; and creating a  
3 new section.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The legislature finds that many issues  
6 relating to the marine environment can and should be addressed at the  
7 county level. The legislature further finds that county governments  
8 could benefit from the establishment of marine resource committees.  
9 The committees would be responsible for ensuring that issues of  
10 importance relating to the marine environment were solved in a public  
11 manner, and with the input of interested parties. The legislature  
12 further finds that state governmental entities often can provide  
13 technical expertise that would aid in solving marine issues of local  
14 importance. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to enable  
15 county governments to adopt the marine resource committee structure,  
16 and to encourage state government agencies to assist in such processes.

17            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 36.01 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

1 County governments may form marine resource committees for the  
2 purpose of addressing issues of concern relating to the local marine  
3 environment. These issues may include but are not limited to:  
4 Declines in fisheries, the operation of personal and other watercraft,  
5 general increases in human activity on a development of the shoreline,  
6 the impact of both point and nonpoint pollution sources, and the  
7 establishment of voluntary no-take fishing zones in conjunction with  
8 the Washington fish and wildlife commission. The committees may be  
9 specifically authorized to provide advice to the county legislative  
10 authority.

11 A committee that is formed under this section may request the  
12 involvement and assistance of state agencies. A state agency that  
13 receives such a request should provide needed assistance, unless  
14 specific reasons for not providing assistance exist. The assistance  
15 may include: Technical aid, identification of funding sources, and  
16 expertise on state programs relating to wildlife, habitat, pollution  
17 sources, recreation, economic development, aquatic lands, or any other  
18 related subject.

19 A committee that adopts a voluntary no-take zone shall provide  
20 specific details regarding the zone, including a map, to the fish and  
21 wildlife commission. This information shall be included in all  
22 published informational materials relating to fishing seasons that are  
23 regularly issued by the fish and wildlife commission.

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