
HOUSE BILL 2135

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Linville, Doumit, Kessler and Santos

Read first time 02/16/1999. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishment of a council of governments on
2 natural resources; and adding new sections to chapter 75.46 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that several species
5 of salmon and steelhead are listed or proposed to be listed as
6 threatened or endangered under federal law. The legislature further
7 finds that salmon recovery is a high priority for the economic,
8 cultural, and environmental future of the state, and that recovery can
9 be accomplished only through close and cooperative relationships
10 between state, local, federal, and tribal governments. Salmon recovery
11 must be addressed within a broad context of economic development needs,
12 growth management to accommodate population, and other acute and unique
13 problems already facing communities across the state. Efforts
14 undertaken to develop a cooperative intergovernmental relationship show
15 promise but would benefit from a clearer mandate and purpose. It is
16 the intent of the legislature to establish an intergovernmental body to
17 share information, to coordinate policy direction, to ensure that all
18 levels of government are involved in developing a salmon recovery

1 response, and to assist the legislative and executive branches in
2 allocating resources for salmon recovery.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A council of governments on natural
4 resources is established. The council shall consist of the following
5 members:

6 (a) Four representatives of county government, appointed by the
7 Washington state association of counties;

8 (b) Four representatives of city government, appointed by the
9 association of Washington cities;

10 (c) Four representatives of tribes, selected by the tribes;

11 (d) One member representing ports, appointed by the Washington
12 public port association;

13 (e) One representative of water and sewer districts, appointed by
14 the Washington association of sewer and water districts;

15 (f) One representative of public utility districts, appointed by
16 the Washington public utility districts association;

17 (g) One representative of irrigation districts, appointed by the
18 Washington state water resources association;

19 (h) Two members of the senate, selected by the president of the
20 senate, with one member from each major caucus;

21 (i) Two members of the house of representatives, selected by the
22 speaker of the house of representatives, with one member from each
23 major caucus; and

24 (j) One representative from the governor's salmon recovery office.

25 (2) In addition to the members described in subsection (1) of this
26 section, the following persons shall attend and support the council's
27 efforts:

28 (a) The commissioner of public lands or the commissioner's
29 designee;

30 (b) The director of the department of ecology;

31 (c) The director of the department of fish and wildlife;

32 (d) The director of the department of agriculture;

33 (e) The director of the department of community, trade, and
34 economic development;

35 (f) The chair of the Puget Sound action team;

36 (g) The director of the conservation commission;

37 (h) The secretary of the department of transportation;

1 (i) The director of the interagency committee for outdoor
2 recreation;

3 (j) The director of the park and recreation commission;

4 (k) The secretary of the department of health; and

5 (l) A member of the Pacific Northwest electric power and
6 conservation planning council, appointed by the governor.

7 (3) The regional director of the national marine fisheries service,
8 the regional supervisor of the United States fish and wildlife service,
9 the regional director of the United States environmental protection
10 agency, and the regional supervisor of the United States forest service
11 shall be invited to join the council as ex officio nonvoting members.

12 (4) The council shall:

13 (a) In concert with the legislature, the joint cabinet on natural
14 resources, and the salmon recovery office, coordinate state-wide policy
15 on salmon recovery with local, tribal, and federal recovery efforts
16 based within one or more watersheds or ecologically significant units,
17 and develop, submit, and subsequently amend a recovery strategy or
18 recovery strategies;

19 (b) Develop a process and criteria for allocation of state and
20 federal funds for salmon recovery; and

21 (c) Develop a citizen information and outreach strategy for salmon
22 recovery.

23 (5) The council shall meet at least once every other month and
24 shall choose a chair and a vice-chair from among its members.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The council of governments on natural
26 resources terminates when all species of salmon and steelhead are
27 removed by federal agencies from lists as threatened or endangered.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each
29 added to chapter 75.46 RCW.

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