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HOUSE BILL 2383

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Regala, G. Chandler, Anderson, Linville, Fisher, Scott, Kenney, Lovick, Haigh, Lantz, Wood, Santos, Edmonds and Ogden

Read first time 01/12/2000. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to aquatic nuisance species; amending RCW  
2 77.12.020; and adding a new chapter to Title 75 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The aquatic nuisance species committee  
5 is created for the purpose of fostering state, federal, tribal, and  
6 private cooperation on aquatic nuisance species issues. The mission of  
7 the committee is to minimize the unauthorized or accidental  
8 introduction of nonnative aquatic species and give special emphasis to  
9 preventing the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species.  
10 The term "aquatic nuisance species" means a nonnative aquatic plant or  
11 animal species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native  
12 species, the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial,  
13 agricultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.

14 (2) The committee consists of representatives from each of the  
15 following state agencies: Department of fish and wildlife, department  
16 of ecology, department of agriculture, department of health, department  
17 of natural resources, Puget Sound water quality action team, state  
18 patrol, state noxious weed control board, and Washington sea grant  
19 program. The committee shall encourage and solicit participation by:

1 Federally recognized tribes of Washington, federal agencies, Washington  
2 conservation organizations, and representatives from industries that  
3 may either be affected by the introduction of an aquatic nuisance  
4 species or that may serve as a pathway for their introduction.

5 (3) The committee has the following duties:

6 (a) Periodically revise the state of Washington aquatic nuisance  
7 species management plan, originally published in June 1998;

8 (b) Recommend to the fish and wildlife commission that an animal be  
9 classified by the commission as an aquatic nuisance species;

10 (c) Recommend to the state noxious weed control board that a plant  
11 be classified under the process designated by RCW 17.10.080 as an  
12 aquatic noxious weed;

13 (d) Coordinate education, research, regulatory authorities,  
14 monitoring and control programs, and participate in regional and  
15 national efforts regarding aquatic nuisance species;

16 (e) Consult with representatives from industries and other  
17 activities that may serve as a pathway for the introduction of aquatic  
18 nuisance species to develop practical strategies that will minimize the  
19 risk of new introductions; and

20 (f) Prepare a biennial report to the legislature with the first  
21 report due by December 1, 2001, making recommendations for better  
22 accomplishing the purposes of this chapter, and listing the  
23 accomplishments of this chapter to date.

24 (4) The committee shall accomplish its duties through the authority  
25 and cooperation of its member agencies. Implementation of all plans  
26 and programs developed by the committee shall be through the member  
27 agencies and other cooperating organizations.

28 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.12.020 and 1994 c 264 s 53 are each amended to read  
29 as follows:

30 (1) The director shall investigate the habits and distribution of  
31 the various species of wildlife native to or adaptable to the habitats  
32 of the state. The commission shall determine whether a species should  
33 be managed by the department and, if so, classify it under this  
34 section.

35 (2) The commission may classify by rule wild animals as game  
36 animals and game animals as fur-bearing animals.

1 (3) The commission may classify by rule wild birds as game birds or  
2 predatory birds. All wild birds not otherwise classified are protected  
3 wildlife.

4 (4) In addition to those species listed in RCW 77.08.020, the  
5 commission may classify by rule as game fish other species of the class  
6 Osteichthyes that are commonly found in fresh water except those  
7 classified as food fish by the director.

8 (5) The director may recommend to the commission that a species of  
9 wildlife should not be hunted or fished. The commission may designate  
10 species of wildlife as protected.

11 (6) If the director determines that a species of wildlife is  
12 seriously threatened with extinction in the state of Washington, the  
13 director may request its designation as an endangered species. The  
14 commission may designate an endangered species.

15 (7) If the director determines that a species of the animal  
16 kingdom, not native to Washington, is dangerous to the environment or  
17 wildlife of the state, the director may request its designation as  
18 deleterious exotic wildlife. The commission may designate deleterious  
19 exotic wildlife.

20 (8) The commission may classify aquatic nuisance species either (a)  
21 if the director determines that an aquatic animal species that is not  
22 native to Washington threatens the diversity or abundance of native  
23 species, the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial,  
24 agricultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters, then  
25 the director may request its classification as an aquatic nuisance  
26 species; or (b) upon recommendation of the aquatic nuisance species  
27 committee, created in section 1 of this act.

28 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Section 1 of this act constitutes a new  
29 chapter in Title 75 RCW.

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