
HOUSE BILL 2949

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representative Dunn

Read first time 01/24/2000. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a public lands task force; creating
2 new sections; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Many counties in the state of Washington have limited growth
6 potential due to the large percentage of public lands within their
7 county boundaries;

8 (2) Many of these counties are also economically distressed, and
9 due to the high percentage of public lands in their county, there is
10 little potential for future growth due to the unavailability of land;
11 and

12 (3) A review of those counties where public lands make up more than
13 fifty percent of a county's total land acreage is needed in order to
14 best determine if additional land can be made available for economic
15 development.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) There is established the public lands
17 task force to consist of thirteen members selected as follows:

1 (a) Two members from each caucus of the house of representatives,
2 appointed by the co-speakers of the house of representatives;

3 (b) Two members from each caucus of the senate, appointed by the
4 president of the senate;

5 (c) One member representing eastern Washington counties with public
6 lands making up more than fifty percent of a county's total land
7 acreage, appointed by the association of Washington counties;

8 (d) One member representing western Washington counties with public
9 lands making up more than fifty percent of a county's total land
10 acreage, appointed by the association of Washington counties;

11 (e) One member representing the department of natural resources,
12 appointed by the commissioner of public lands;

13 (f) One member representing the department of community, trade, and
14 economic development, appointed by the director of the department of
15 community, trade, and economic development; and

16 (g) One member representing federal agencies that administer
17 federal lands in the state, appointed by the United States secretary of
18 the interior.

19 (2) The interagency committee for outdoor recreation shall provide
20 staffing.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The task force shall:

22 (1) Identify each county with more than fifty percent of the lands
23 within its boundaries owned by the state or federal government;

24 (2) Conduct a survey of all public lands in those counties
25 identified in subsection (1) of this section;

26 (3) Identify specific public lands in each of the counties
27 identified in subsection (1) of this section that provide the greatest
28 opportunity for future economic development. For each parcel
29 identified under this subsection, provide the location of said property
30 and its relative proximity to existing roads, rail lines, ports, and
31 population bases; and

32 (4) Provide a written report to the legislature presenting its
33 findings and recommendations by December 31, 2001.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires July 1, 2002.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If any provision of this act or its
36 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the

1 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
2 persons or circumstances is not affected.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
5 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
6 immediately.

--- END ---