
SENATE BILL 6229

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen and Oke

Read first time 01/11/2000. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting wildlife viewing; amending RCW
2 77.12.010; creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The departments of fish and wildlife and
5 community, trade, and economic development shall host a working
6 conference on promoting wildlife viewing tourism. The objective of the
7 conference shall be to adopt a strategic plan and specific implementing
8 actions to promote wildlife viewing tourism in Washington in a manner
9 that both provides sustainable economic development in the state's
10 rural areas and supports maintaining the state's wildlife diversity.

11 (2) The departments shall work with interested local governments,
12 state agencies, visitor and convention bureaus, the hospitality
13 industry, tourism development organizations, and tour operators and
14 wildlife conservation organizations in preparing for and conducting the
15 conference. The departments shall guide preparation for the conference
16 by surveying programs and activities in other states and compiling
17 information on current programs, infrastructure, and promotional
18 activities regarding wildlife viewing tourism in Washington. To
19 enhance the effectiveness of the conference and its products, the

1 departments shall seek to frame issues and outline options for
2 improvement through white papers and preliminary meetings with interest
3 groups.

4 (3) Among the topics that the departments and interest groups
5 should address at the conference are:

6 (a) Strategies to increase revenues and benefits to Washington
7 communities with wildlife viewing resources that have identified
8 tourism as part of their economic development strategy;

9 (b) Strengthening the wildlife viewing tourism elements of gateway
10 community partnerships among state and local transportation, economic
11 development, and parks and wildlife agencies;

12 (c) Providing leadership and services by state agencies to assist
13 local communities to assess their local wildlife viewing resources and
14 to market tourism centered upon such resources;

15 (d) Developing proposals to increase state funding to local
16 communities to implement local wildlife viewing tourism plans,
17 including assessing resources, providing infrastructure specific to
18 wildlife viewing tourism, festival development and marketing; and

19 (e) Promoting wildlife viewing tourism as an element of tourism
20 related to the Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemoration.

21 (4) The departments shall schedule the conference at a time
22 sufficient to prepare a summary of the conference proceedings and
23 proposals for legislative funding to be submitted to the appropriate
24 committees of the legislature no later than December 15, 2000.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** From the amounts appropriated in this act,
26 the department of fish and wildlife shall provide up to three grants to
27 support local tourism promotional events that feature wildlife viewing.
28 The department shall provide technical assistance to the grantees if
29 requested through providing information on wildlife resources in the
30 area and expertise on wildlife viewing activities. The department
31 shall compile a summary of the costs and benefits of the events that
32 the grants supported and provide the summary to the appropriate
33 committees of the legislature no later than January 1, 2001.

34 **Sec. 3.** RCW 77.12.010 and 1985 c 438 s 1 are each amended to read
35 as follows:

36 Wildlife is the property of the state. The department shall
37 preserve, protect, and perpetuate wildlife. Game animals, game birds,

1 and game fish may be taken only at times or places, or in manners or
2 quantities as in the judgment of the commission maximizes public
3 recreational opportunities without impairing the supply of wildlife.
4 The department shall manage wildlife programs in a manner that
5 maximizes public opportunities to view wildlife and supports wildlife
6 viewing tourism in rural areas without impairing the state's wildlife
7 resources.

8 The commission shall not adopt rules that categorically prohibit
9 fishing with bait or artificial lures in streams, rivers, beaver ponds,
10 and lakes except that the commission may adopt rules and regulations
11 restricting fishing methods upon a determination by the director that
12 an individual body of water or part thereof clearly requires a fishing
13 method prohibition to conserve or enhance the fisheries resource or to
14 provide selected fishing alternatives. The commission shall attempt to
15 maximize the public recreational fishing opportunities of all citizens,
16 particularly juvenile, handicapped, and senior citizens.

17 Nothing contained herein shall be construed to infringe on the
18 right of a private property owner to control the owner's private
19 property.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The sum of forty-five thousand dollars, or
21 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
22 year ending June 30, 2001, from the general fund to the department of
23 fish and wildlife for the purposes of this act.

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