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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6294**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**2000 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation  
(originally sponsored by Senators Jacobsen, Haugen and Oke)

Read first time 01/27/00.

1 AN ACT Relating to aquatic nuisance species; and adding a new  
2 section to chapter 75.24 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 75.24 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

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

16 (2) The committee consists of representatives from each of the  
17 following state agencies: Department of fish and wildlife, department  
18 of ecology, department of agriculture, department of health, department  
19 of natural resources, Puget Sound water quality action team, state

1 patrol, state noxious weed control board, and Washington sea grant  
2 program. The committee shall encourage and solicit participation by:  
3 Federally recognized tribes of Washington, federal agencies, Washington  
4 conservation organizations, environmental groups, and representatives  
5 from industries that may either be affected by the introduction of an  
6 aquatic nuisance species or that may serve as a pathway for their  
7 introduction.

8 (3) The committee has the following duties:

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

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

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

16 (d) Coordinate education, research, regulatory authorities,  
17 monitoring and control programs, and participate in regional and  
18 national efforts regarding aquatic nuisance species;

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

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

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

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