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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2294**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2002 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Hatfield, Doumit, Kessler, Eickmeyer, Lantz, Rockefeller, Wood, Mielke, Boldt, Benson, Edwards, Upthegrove and Dunn)

Read first time 02/09/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to recreation sites owned by the department of  
2 natural resources; adding new sections to chapter 43.30 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.30 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature recognizes that the department of natural  
8 resources makes recreation sites available to the public and that many  
9 of these sites are primitive in nature. The legislature finds that the  
10 department lacks the necessary staff and money to maintain these  
11 recreation sites despite their primitive nature, and that a number of  
12 these recreation sites are at risk of closing. The legislature also  
13 finds that the state adopt-a-highway program under the department of  
14 transportation has been successful in attracting volunteers to help  
15 keep the roadsides clean. The legislature finds that by providing  
16 expanded opportunities for participation by volunteers at recreation  
17 sites operated by the department of natural resources, the state may  
18 save money and be able to keep some recreation sites open that would  
19 otherwise close, and there may be expanded community service

1 opportunities for youth groups, other civic organizations, and  
2 businesses.

3 (2) If a recreation site is determined by the department as  
4 appropriate to keep open but the site is being considered for permanent  
5 closure due to insufficient funds, before the department may close the  
6 recreation site the department must involve the public and interested  
7 stakeholders in seeking alternatives to closure that may involve  
8 partnerships with volunteers, businesses, other governmental agencies,  
9 and organizations.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.30 RCW  
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) The department shall seek partnerships with volunteer groups  
13 and businesses to expand its volunteer program to facilitate the goals  
14 of this section and section 1 of this act. The department may solicit  
15 funding for a recreation site volunteer program and allow private  
16 entities to undertake all or a portion of financing for the  
17 initiatives. The department shall develop guidelines regarding labor,  
18 cash, and in-kind contributions to be performed by volunteers.

19 (2) The department of natural resources may enter into agreements  
20 with other state and federal agencies, units of local government,  
21 nonprofit organizations, and businesses to perform necessary  
22 maintenance and repair of recreation sites, and to coordinate  
23 volunteers working at these recreation sites.

24 (3) The department shall develop a standardized application form,  
25 registration form, and contractual agreement for all participating  
26 groups. The department shall develop guidelines for: The minimum age  
27 of participants, the minimum ratio of adult supervisors for different  
28 size groups of minors, any requisite safety training or safety  
29 equipment, the maintaining of records of any accidents or injuries that  
30 occur, and anything else deemed necessary to implement this program.  
31 The department shall require parental consent for participation of all  
32 minors.

33 (4) A volunteer group or business interested in participating in a  
34 recreation site volunteer program must submit a proposal to the  
35 department. The department shall review the proposal for consistency  
36 with its policies and guidelines. The department may accept, reject,  
37 or propose a modification to the proposed application.

1 (5) A volunteer performing any authorized or assigned work at a  
2 recreation site is considered a state employee for the purpose of  
3 receiving medical aid benefits under chapter 51.36 RCW, and the  
4 department shall pay any and all premiums or assessments under RCW  
5 51.12.035 to secure these benefits. A participating business must pay  
6 all employer premiums and assessments required under chapter 51.36 RCW  
7 to secure medical aid for all employees or agents participating in the  
8 program.

9 (6) Nothing in this section or section 1 of this act creates any  
10 right of appeal under chapter 34.05 RCW regarding the closure of a  
11 recreation site.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
13 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
14 June 30, 2002, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
15 void.

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