
SENATE BILL 5298

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen and Oke

Read first time 01/18/2001. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting wildlife viewing; adding a new section
2 to chapter 77.12 RCW; creating a new section; and making an
3 appropriation.

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

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

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

1 enhance the effectiveness of the conference and its products, the
2 departments shall seek to frame issues and outline options for
3 improvement through white papers and preliminary meetings with interest
4 groups.

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (4) The departments shall schedule the conference at a time
23 sufficient to prepare a summary of the conference proceedings and
24 proposals for legislative funding to be submitted to the appropriate
25 committees of the legislature no later than December 15, 2001.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW
27 to read as follows:

28 The department shall manage wildlife programs in a manner that
29 provides for public opportunities to view wildlife and supports
30 wildlife viewing tourism without impairing the state's wildlife
31 resources.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of forty-five thousand dollars, or
33 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
34 year ending June 30, 2002, from the general fund to the department of
35 fish and wildlife for the purposes of this act.

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