
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6474

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines (originally sponsored by Senators Morton, Hargrove, Hewitt, Honeyford, T. Sheldon, Hochstatter, Benton, Stevens, McCaslin, Long, Hale and Sheahan)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/2002.

1 AN ACT Relating to purchase of land by state agencies; and creating
2 new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that in some regions
5 of the state there is growing controversy over the purchase of large
6 tracts of land by state agencies for wildlife habitat and related
7 purposes, especially in areas of the state with a limited private land
8 base. There is concern that these purchases may decrease local tax
9 revenues, may cause inflated land values, and that the stewardship of
10 the lands may not be adequate, leading to weed infestation and other
11 impacts to neighboring properties. Therefore, the legislature finds
12 that the joint legislative audit and review committee should
13 investigate these concerns and others, and make recommendations for
14 legislative action where warranted.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The joint legislative audit and review
16 committee must conduct a review of state agency land purchases for
17 wildlife habitat and related purposes over the last five years in the

1 six counties of the state with the highest proportion of public land
2 ownership. The review must include an assessment of the following:

3 (1) The cumulative effect of the purchases of state land on local
4 government property tax revenues;

5 (2) The process used to select properties for state land purchase;

6 (3) The method of appraising potential lands for purchase, and the
7 appraised value in comparison to the final purchase price;

8 (4) Whether state agency land purchases have impacted property
9 values positively or negatively in the immediate vicinity of the
10 property;

11 (5) The maintenance and management of state lands purchased,
12 specifically with regard to weed management; and

13 (6) The effects on the local economy from the changes in use of the
14 property purchased.

15 The report must be submitted to the natural resources committees of
16 the senate and house of representatives by December 1, 2003.

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