
SENATE BILL 6790

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Spanel and Gardner

Read first time 02/05/2002. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing the increase of personal use
2 shellfish license fees to fund biotoxin testing and monitoring by the
3 department of health of beaches used for recreational shellfishing;
4 amending RCW 77.32.520; adding a new section to chapter 69.30 RCW; and
5 creating new sections.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that testing and
8 monitoring of beaches used for recreational shellfishing is essential
9 to ensure the health of recreational shellfishers. The legislature
10 also finds that it is essential to have a stable and reliable source of
11 funding for such biotoxin testing and monitoring. The legislature also
12 finds that the cost of the resident and nonresident personal use
13 shellfish and seaweed licenses is undervalued and not properly aligned
14 with neighboring states and provinces.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.32.520 and 2000 c 107 s 27 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 (1) A personal use shellfish and seaweed license is required for
18 all persons other than residents or nonresidents under fifteen years of

1 age to fish for, take, dig for, or possess seaweed or shellfish for
2 personal use from state waters or offshore waters including national
3 park beaches.

4 (2) The fees for annual personal use shellfish and seaweed licenses
5 are:

6 (a) For a resident fifteen years of age or older, seven dollars;

7 (b) For a nonresident fifteen years of age or older, twenty
8 dollars; and

9 (c) For a senior, five dollars.

10 (3) The license fee for a two-day personal use shellfish and
11 seaweed license is six dollars for residents or nonresidents fifteen
12 years of age or older.

13 (4) The personal use shellfish and seaweed license shall be visible
14 on the licensee while harvesting shellfish or seaweed.

15 (5) In addition to the fees authorized in this section, the
16 department shall include a surcharge, as determined by rule by the
17 department of health, to fund biotoxin testing and monitoring of
18 beaches used for recreational shellfishing. Amounts collected from
19 this surcharge shall be deposited in a general fund-local account
20 managed by the department of health.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 69.30 RCW
22 to read as follows:

23 The department must by rule establish a surcharge on personal use
24 shellfish and seaweed license fees as authorized by RCW 77.32.520. The
25 surcharge must be sufficient to cover the full costs of, and be used
26 exclusively to fund, biotoxin testing and monitoring of beaches used
27 for recreational shellfishing.

28 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The fee increase proposed in RCW 77.32.520
29 must be implemented in the department of fish and wildlife's license
30 fee structure for the license year beginning April 1, 2003.

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