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HOUSE BILL 1973

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Veloria, McCoy and Kenney

Read first time 02/18/2003.      Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1            AN ACT Relating to promoting tourism; adding a new section to  
2 chapter 43.31 RCW; creating a new section; and making appropriations.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5            (1) Nature-based tourism is a growing sector that can provide  
6 Washington residents with jobs and local communities with needed  
7 revenues;

8            (2) Contacts made through nature-based tourism activities may yield  
9 future benefits in terms of future investments in the state and local  
10 communities;

11            (3) Current efforts to promote nature-based tourism are limited by  
12 funding; and

13            (4) A collaborative effort among state and local governments,  
14 tribes, and private enterprises can serve to leverage the investments  
15 in nature-based tourism made by each.

16            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.31 RCW  
17 to read as follows:

18            The department of community, trade, and economic development shall

1 develop an annual nature-based business and marketing plan and  
2 coordinate with the department of fish and wildlife and other  
3 appropriate agencies and organizations to promote and market nature-  
4 based tourism in Washington to maximize efforts and benefits. This  
5 effort shall include the coordination of:

6 (1) The promotion of nature-based tourism;

7 (2) The promotion of fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing;

8 (3) The creation of partnerships among agencies, organizations,  
9 tribes, and local communities to develop and promote nature-based  
10 tourism;

11 (4) The provision of educational information to the minority and  
12 local communities in order to educate them about rules and regulations  
13 as well as recreational opportunities; and

14 (5) The promotion of local industries, such as agriculture-based  
15 tourism.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of seventy-five thousand  
17 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from  
18 the general fund to the department of community, trade, and economic  
19 development for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, to carry out the  
20 purposes of this act.

21 (2) The sum of seventy-five thousand dollars, or as much thereof as  
22 may be necessary, is appropriated from the general fund to the  
23 department of community, trade, and economic development for the fiscal  
24 year ending June 30, 2005, to carry out the purposes of this act.

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