
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6242

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water (originally sponsored by Senators Parlette and Berkey)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a statewide strategy for land
2 acquisitions and disposal; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) The legislature finds that the 1999
5 public and tribal lands inventory provides a base of information
6 necessary to develop a statewide strategy for acquisition of lands for
7 recreation and habitat preservation and enhancement. However,
8 additional information on recent acquisitions is necessary to determine
9 the extent of recent acquisitions, how they were funded, and whether
10 those acquisitions are compatible with a statewide strategy or more
11 narrowly in pursuit of the goals of single agencies.

12 (b) The legislature further finds that land acquisition decisions
13 have long-term implications, often in perpetuity, and that some
14 acquisitions occur outside the control and oversight of the
15 legislature.

16 (c) The legislature intends to establish a statewide strategy for
17 acquisition and disposal of lands for recreation and habitat
18 preservation and enhancement, and to clarify authority for centralized,
19 interagency control over implementation of that strategy.

1 (2) The interagency committee for outdoor recreation shall submit
2 a report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the
3 legislature and to the governor by June 30, 2005. The report shall
4 include an inventory of recent habitat and recreational land
5 acquisitions and a recommended statewide strategy for future
6 acquisitions.

7 (a) The inventory shall include habitat and recreational land
8 acquisitions and disposals since 1980 by state agencies. For the
9 purpose of this inventory, "land acquisition" means fee simple
10 acquisition or less than a fee simple interest if that interest is for
11 more than fifty years. Land acquisitions by state agencies include
12 those funded by state agencies but owned by local governments. The
13 inventory shall:

14 (i) Include information about land acquisitions and disposals that
15 involved land trading or swapping between public and private entities,
16 and land acquisitions that were gifts;

17 (ii) Specify principal use of the acquired parcels and other data
18 compatible with the 1999 inventory;

19 (iii) Specify the agency or local government acquiring or disposing
20 of the property, the costs of the land acquisition or receipts from the
21 disposal, the funding sources, and whether the land acquisition was
22 funded under a legislative appropriation, an unanticipated receipt,
23 and/or exchange of land parcels; and

24 (iv) Include any additional information local governments may
25 provide to the inventory about habitat and recreational land
26 acquisitions by land trusts, conservancies, port districts, public
27 utility districts, and other parties that result in the property's
28 change to a tax exempt status.

29 (b) The recommended statewide strategy must specify whether all
30 land acquisitions and disposals of recreational and habitat lands by
31 state agencies, regardless of fund source, should comply with the
32 priorities and policies of chapter 79A.15 RCW and, if not, what
33 priorities and policies should apply. The recommended statewide
34 strategy must:

35 (i) Ensure that land acquisition and disposal decisions are based
36 on a determination of need for recreational and habitat lands compared
37 to existing public lands serving those purposes in various areas of the
38 state;

1 (ii) Specify how to provide a central, interagency point of control
2 to ensure that land acquisitions by state agencies, including land
3 acquisitions funded through unanticipated receipts, comply with
4 statewide priorities and policies;

5 (iii) Examine ways to compensate local governments by spreading
6 statewide the impact of lost tax revenues from acquisitions of private
7 property for habitat and recreation. The strategy shall consider the
8 benefits and costs of providing payments in lieu of taxes on certain
9 kinds of land acquisitions, in certain counties or statewide, as lump-
10 sum payments or periodic payments, and how such payments might be
11 calculated; and

12 (iv) Consider options for a no net gain policy in counties with
13 large portions of existing public habitat and recreational land.

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