
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1799

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections (originally sponsored by Representatives B. Sullivan and Upthegrove)

READ FIRST TIME 03/04/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to park rangers employed by the state parks and
2 recreation commission; creating new sections; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that law enforcement
6 functions at state parks and lands are insufficient to adequately
7 protect the public and our natural resources. Threats to the safety of
8 the visiting public and public lands are not necessarily confined to
9 the boundaries of state parks and lands. State law does not expressly
10 grant or deny park rangers the authority to engage in law enforcement
11 activities outside of park and land boundaries. Further, the
12 legislature finds that, in many areas of the state, other state or
13 local law enforcement officers are either too far away or understaffed
14 to provide adequate support to on-site law enforcement professionals in
15 emergency situations. The legislature finds that a comprehensive
16 review of the role and responsibilities of law enforcement
17 professionals within and around state parks and lands is necessary to
18 ensure the value of state parks and natural resources is not
19 diminished.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The task force on state public
2 recreational lands and public safety is created. The task force shall
3 be comprised of eleven members appointed as follows:

4 (a) Two members of the house of representatives, one from each
5 major caucus, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of
6 representatives;

7 (b) Two members of the senate, one from each major caucus, to be
8 appointed by the president of the senate;

9 (c) The commissioner of public lands or his or her designee;

10 (d) The chair of the Washington state parks and recreation
11 commission or his or her designee;

12 (e) The chair of the Washington fish and wildlife commission or his
13 or her designee;

14 (f) Four members, to be appointed jointly by the speaker of the
15 house of representatives and the president of the senate, from
16 nominations submitted by the following organizations:

17 (i) One representative of the Washington association of sheriffs
18 and police chiefs;

19 (ii) One representative of the Washington state council of police
20 and sheriffs;

21 (iii) One representative park ranger who is an active member of the
22 recognized employee bargaining unit and who is employed by the
23 Washington state parks and recreation commission; and

24 (iv) One recognized employee representative of enforcement officers
25 with the department of natural resources.

26 (2) The task force members shall elect a chair and determine its
27 operating procedures. The task force shall be jointly staffed by the
28 office of program research and senate committee services as determined
29 by their respective staff directors.

30 (3) This section expires January 1, 2006.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The task force shall conduct a comprehensive
32 review of law enforcement issues in and around state parks and lands,
33 including but not limited to:

34 (1) The extent to which illegal activity in and around state parks
35 and lands threatens public safety and natural resources; and

36 (2) The ability of the current state and local law enforcement to
37 respond to illegal activity on or near public recreational lands.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** By December 15, 2005, the task force shall
2 provide a final report of its recommendations, including any draft
3 legislation to implement the recommendations. The report shall be
4 submitted to the chief clerk of the house of representatives and the
5 secretary of the senate.

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