
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1883

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Select Committee on Hood Canal (originally sponsored by Representatives McCoy, Pearson, Eickmeyer, Upthegrove and Haigh)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to collection and preservation of oral histories
2 about Hood Canal; adding a new section to chapter 28B.40 RCW; creating
3 a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that Hood Canal is
6 a marine water of the state in significant peril. The legislature also
7 finds that low dissolved oxygen concentrations have occurred in Hood
8 Canal for many years and that these conditions have created a serious
9 environmental health concern. The legislature further finds that
10 substantial fish kills have occurred in Hood Canal in recent years, and
11 scientists and others report significant changes in marine species
12 behavior in Hood Canal.

13 (2) The legislature finds that the factors contributing to Hood
14 Canal's low dissolved oxygen problems are complex and that
15 investigation is needed to understand both the problem and its
16 potential solutions. The legislature also finds that a historical
17 perspective is important in understanding Hood Canal's problems. The
18 legislature recognizes the tribal elders and other long-term residents
19 of the Hood Canal area are a great source of knowledge regarding the

1 history of Hood Canal. The legislature finds these tribal elders and
2 others may provide critical insight into the history, impacts, and
3 potential causes of the low dissolved oxygen concentrations occurring
4 in Hood Canal.

5 (3) The legislature intends to initiate a process for university
6 students to interview tribal elders and others who have knowledge of
7 the history of conditions along Hood Canal to collect information
8 regarding the history and impacts of Hood Canal's low dissolved oxygen
9 concentrations. The legislature further intends that these interviews
10 and the information learned be preserved as part of the state's oral
11 history program.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.40 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) The Evergreen State College shall administer and conduct a
15 program to record and document oral histories of tribal elders of the
16 tribes in the area surrounding Hood Canal and other long-term residents
17 of the Hood Canal area who have similar knowledge of the history of the
18 conditions along Hood Canal. The purpose of these interviews is to
19 collect information and perspectives regarding the history of the
20 conditions along Hood Canal, including but not limited to reports of
21 fish kills, changes in marine species behavior, fishing and harvesting
22 histories, and other conditions related to the environmental health of
23 Hood Canal. The Evergreen State College shall have college students
24 interview and record the oral histories specified in this section. The
25 Evergreen State College shall consult with the appropriate tribal
26 cultural and historical departments regarding the interviews of tribal
27 elders under this program.

28 (2) The Evergreen State College shall offer the tribes in the area
29 surrounding Hood Canal an opportunity to review the documents,
30 information, photographs, or other materials collected through the oral
31 history program established in subsection (1) of this section to
32 determine whether any relate to the location of tribal archaeological
33 sites. Any documents, information, photographs, or other materials
34 identified by a tribe as relating to tribal archaeological sites
35 according to this subsection are exempt from public disclosure pursuant
36 to RCW 42.17.310(1)(k); however, The Evergreen State College shall

1 provide the documents, information, photographs, or other materials
2 exempt from disclosure under RCW 42.17.310(1)(k) to the tribe for its
3 own archival purposes.

4 (3) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the tapes
5 and tape transcripts shall be indexed and made available for research
6 and reference through the state archives.

7 (4) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the
8 transcripts, together with current and historical photographs, may be
9 published for distribution to libraries and for sale to the general
10 public.

11 (5) The Evergreen State College may retain no more than five
12 percent of any funding provided for the program established in
13 subsection (1) of this section for costs associated with administering
14 and conducting the program.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires July 1, 2008.

--- END ---