
HOUSE BILL 1985

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Buck and B. Sullivan

Read first time 02/14/2005. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the future of Washington forests
2 review council; creating new sections; and making appropriations.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The future of Washington forests review
5 council is established. The purpose of the council is to: (1) Gather
6 data necessary to understanding the economic, recreational, and
7 environmental contributions of the forest products industry and
8 secondary manufacturing sectors in Washington state and the trends that
9 will influence the industry in the future; and (2) develop
10 recommendations for policy changes that will contribute to maintaining
11 the economic stability and growth of the forest products industry in
12 Washington state.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The future of Washington forests review
14 council is composed of the following members: The governor, the
15 lieutenant governor, and the commissioner of public lands.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The future of Washington forests review

1 council is directed and authorized, subject to funding in the omnibus
2 appropriations act, to commission the following studies:

3 (1) An update of the 1992 timber supply study for Washington state
4 that was done by the University of Washington. The update must be
5 conducted using the same fundamental processes, methodology, and
6 assumptions as the 1992 study, and using the same data gathering
7 methodology as the original study. The department of natural resources
8 is directed to fully cooperate with the update process and provide the
9 data from the recently completed sustained yield calculation process.
10 The council is directed to assemble a team of public and private forest
11 inventory and analysis specialists to develop the specific work plan
12 for the timber supply update and work with the vendor to ensure that
13 the data and analysis are collected in the appropriate fashion.

14 (2) An independent assessment of the economic contribution of the
15 forest products industry, and secondary manufacturing sectors, to the
16 state of Washington. This assessment will also examine some of the
17 macroeconomic trends likely to affect the industry in the future.

18 (3) A comparison of the competitive position of Washington's forest
19 products industry with other leading forest products states, or
20 regions, of the United States. This evaluation should compare the
21 relative tax burden for growing and harvesting timber between the
22 states or regions, the relative cost of adhering to regulations, and
23 identify the competitive advantages of each state or region. The
24 council is directed to assemble a team of public and private sector
25 experts and economists to fully develop the work plan and work with the
26 vendor to ensure the data and analysis are of high quality.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The future of Washington forests review
28 council may form one or more technical advisory committees to assist
29 the council in assembling and understanding recently completed studies
30 or analysis that will assist the council in accomplishing its task.
31 Examples include, but are not limited to, the legislative task force on
32 forest health, the joint legislative audit and review committee study
33 on forest fire fighting costs, the forest practices board's
34 environmental impact statement for changes in forest practices under
35 forest and fish, the board of natural resources' environmental impact
36 statement for the department of natural resources' sustained yield
37 level, and the recently completed economic analysis of the Oregon

1 forest sector contributions and potential by the Oregon forest
2 resources institute. The council may also form a technical advisory
3 committee to provide input on issues that arise during the course of
4 their review.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The future of Washington forests review
6 council shall review all of the information gathered in sections 2
7 through 4 of this act. The council will summarize the current and
8 potential roles of nonfederal forests, and their contributions to
9 Washington state's economy, quality of life, recreation, environmental
10 quality, and rural vitality over the next fifty years. Based on this
11 review, the council shall develop recommendations on: (1) Policy
12 changes that would enhance the competitive position of Washington's
13 forest products industry in Washington state; (2) policy changes that
14 would, to the extent possible, ensure that a productive forest land
15 base continues to be managed for forest products, recreation, and
16 environmental and other public benefits into the future; and (3) policy
17 changes that would enhance the recreational opportunities on working
18 forest lands in Washington state.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The future of Washington forests review
20 council must be staffed by the governor's office, the office of
21 financial management, and the department of natural resources.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The sum of one hundred thousand dollars,
23 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
24 year ending June 30, 2006, from the general fund to the governor's
25 office for the purposes of this act.

26 (2) The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as
27 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,
28 2007, from the general fund to the governor's office for the purposes
29 of this act.

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