
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2740

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks (originally sponsored by Representatives Orcutt, Blake and Kretz)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to reauthorizing the department of natural
2 resources to have exclusive jurisdiction over all forest practices
3 applications; creating 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:

6 (a) Local governments are the appropriate place for land use
7 changes to be considered and for ordinances to be implemented that
8 relate to the clearing and grading of land, local services, and
9 critical areas;

10 (b) The department of natural resources implements the forest
11 practices act and the forest practices rules;

12 (c) The department of ecology is responsible for protection of
13 water quality;

14 (d) It is in the best interests of the state that forest landowners
15 keep their land in forestry;

16 (e) Working forests are vital to the economic and environmental
17 health of the state;

18 (f) Processes are in place which allow a landowner to convert

1 forest land to another use or maintain the option to convert forest
2 land at a later date;

3 (g) Laws governing conversion of forest land to other uses and
4 regulatory jurisdiction over such forest practices have been in place
5 for more than eight years; and

6 (h) It is clear that at times in some places in the state these
7 laws, and associated administrative processes, have unnecessarily
8 complicated landowners' ability to carry out forest practices.

9 (2) The department of natural resources and the department of
10 ecology shall work with a statewide association of counties and other
11 participants in the process leading to the forests and fish law to
12 determine how the current laws and processes regulating forest
13 practices and conversion of forest land to a nonforestry use could be
14 improved by clarifying roles and responsibilities, eliminating
15 duplicative regulation of the same activity, making any needed
16 adjustments to regulatory requirements, and simplifying pathways
17 leading to regulatory decisions while maintaining current standards of
18 environmental protection.

19 (3) The evaluation required by this section must include specific
20 examination of laws and administrative processes governing:

21 (a) Interactions among the department of natural resources, the
22 department of ecology, and local governments in situations where both
23 the state and local governments have regulatory responsibilities
24 related to the same forestry-related activity;

25 (b) Moratoriums on the conversion of forest land;

26 (c) Conversion harvest option plans;

27 (d) Determination of lead agency status pursuant to the state
28 environmental policy act; and

29 (e) Application, processing, and recording fees.

30 (4) The department of natural resources must provide a report to
31 the appropriate committees of the legislature by October 31, 2006,
32 including recommendations for changes to laws and administrative
33 processes.

34 (5) This section expires on July 1, 2007.

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