
HOUSE BILL 3237

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Hunter, Eickmeyer, Simpson, Grant, Linville,
Hankins and Jarrett

Read first time 01/27/2006. Referred to Committee on Natural
Resources, Ecology & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to a review of the department of natural resources'
2 aquatic program; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the aquatic lands
5 program in the department of natural resources manages over two million
6 acres of state-owned aquatic lands. The legislature further finds that
7 the state faces a diverse and complex set of issues in managing state
8 lands for public access, leasing aquatic lands for commercial purposes,
9 the harvest of geoduck, providing proper stewardship of near-shore
10 areas, cleanup of hazardous materials on aquatic lands, and a number of
11 other issues. The legislature further finds that the funding for these
12 activities largely comes from the revenues generated from the leasing
13 of state aquatic lands and the sale of valuable materials, including
14 geoduck. The legislature further finds that conflicts of interest may
15 exist between the management of state aquatic lands and the generation
16 of revenue to manage those aquatic lands. Therefore, the legislature
17 finds that there should be a thorough review of the funding and
18 management of state aquatic lands to determine the proper funding
19 source and levels necessary to properly manage those resources.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint legislative audit and review
2 committee shall, consistent with chapter 44.28 RCW:

3 (a) Conduct a performance audit of the department of natural
4 resources' aquatic resources program to determine the success of the
5 department in meeting the objectives established in statute for
6 managing aquatic lands;

7 (b) Review management policies to determine if decisions to
8 generate revenues to support the aquatics program are consistent with
9 policies established in statute for managing aquatic lands;

10 (c) Review the percentage of revenues retained by the department of
11 natural resources from the resource management cost account and the
12 aquatic lands enhancement account for the aquatics program to determine
13 if the percentages are appropriate to support the program; and

14 (d) Make recommendations on whether the use of nonagency generated
15 revenues, such as the state general fund, would provide a better
16 funding mechanism for the management of state-owned aquatic lands.

17 (2) The final performance audit and recommendations required by
18 this section must be completed by December 15, 2007.

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