
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5405

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation
(originally sponsored by Senators Jacobsen, Swecker, Doumit,
Hargrove, Spanel and Morton)

READ FIRST TIME 03/02/05.

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

28 (4) An assessment of the trends and dynamics that commercial and
29 residential development play in the conversion of Washington state's
30 forests to nonforestry uses. The assessment will involve gathering
31 relevant data, reviewing that data, and analyzing the relationship
32 between development and the conversion of forest land uses.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The future of Washington forests review
34 council may form one or more technical advisory committees to assist
35 the council in assembling and understanding recently completed studies
36 or analysis that will assist the council in accomplishing its task.
37 Examples include, but are not limited to, the legislative task force on

1 forest health, the joint legislative audit and review committee study
2 on forest fire fighting costs, the forest practices board's
3 environmental impact statement for changes in forest practices under
4 forest and fish, the board of natural resources' environmental impact
5 statement for the department of natural resources' sustained yield
6 level, and the recently completed economic analysis of the Oregon
7 forest sector contributions and potential by the Oregon forest
8 resources institute. The council may also form a technical advisory
9 committee to provide input on issues that arise during the course of
10 their review.

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

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The legislature finds that the western
26 slopes of the Cascade mountain range in Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish,
27 King, Pierce, Thurston, and Lewis counties are experiencing increasing
28 demands for a wide range of uses by the growing population in the Puget
29 Sound basin. These lands provide important economic, forest, fish and
30 wildlife, recreation, scenic, educational, and watershed benefits to
31 the entire region. The legislature further finds that it is in the
32 public's interest to assist Cascade foothills area landowners and
33 communities in retaining responsible, working forestry in the lower
34 elevations of this area to sustain timber-dependent economies while
35 acknowledging ecological and environmental benefits from the forests.

1 (2) In addition to the findings and recommendations in section 5 of
2 this act, the future of Washington forests review council shall analyze
3 and recommend policies and programs to assist Cascade foothills area
4 landowners and communities in developing and implementing innovative
5 approaches to retaining traditional forestry while at the same time
6 accommodating new uses that strengthen the economic and natural
7 benefits from forest lands. For the purposes of this section, the
8 Cascade foothills area generally encompasses the nonurbanized lands
9 within the Cascade mountain range and drainages lying between three
10 hundred and three thousand feet above mean sea level, and located
11 within the counties of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce,
12 Thurston, and Lewis counties.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The future of Washington forests review
14 council shall report the findings and recommendations required by
15 sections 5 and 6 of this act to the appropriate policy and fiscal
16 committees of the senate and house of representatives by December 31,
17 2007.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The future of Washington forests review
19 council must be staffed by the governor's office, the office of
20 financial management, and the department of natural resources.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The future of Washington forests review
22 council and its powers and duties terminate June 30, 2008.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) The sum of one hundred thousand
24 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
25 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, from the general fund to the
26 governor's office for the purposes of this act.

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

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