
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5405

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Jacobsen, Swecker, Doumit, Hargrove, Spanel and Morton)

READ FIRST TIME 03/08/05.

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

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 may be
5 accomplished by reviewing the most recent similar data available in
6 existing reports, examining a sample of the original 1992 study sample
7 of lands, and through other existing data sources that may reveal
8 relevant trends and changes since 1992.

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

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

23 (4) An assessment of the trends and dynamics that commercial and
24 residential development play in the conversion of Washington state's
25 forests to nonforestry uses. The assessment will involve gathering
26 relevant data, reviewing that data, and analyzing the relationship
27 between development and the conversion of forest land uses.

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

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

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

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

31 (2) In addition to the findings and recommendations in section 5 of
32 this act, the future of Washington forests review council shall analyze
33 and recommend policies and programs to assist Cascade foothills area
34 landowners and communities in developing and implementing innovative
35 approaches to retaining traditional forestry while at the same time
36 accommodating new uses that strengthen the economic and natural

1 benefits from forest lands. For the purposes of this section, the
2 Cascade foothills area generally encompasses the nonurbanized lands
3 within the Cascade mountain range and drainages lying between three
4 hundred and three thousand feet above mean sea level, and located
5 within the counties of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce,
6 Thurston, and Lewis counties.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The future of Washington forests review
8 council shall report the findings and recommendations required by
9 sections 5 and 6 of this act to the appropriate policy and fiscal
10 committees of the senate and house of representatives by December 31,
11 2007.

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

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

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