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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6211**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2006 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation  
(originally sponsored by Senators Jacobsen and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1       AN ACT Relating to the timber land revitalization board; and adding  
2 a new chapter to Title 76 RCW.

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

4       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that more than half of  
5 the state's forty-two and one-half million acres are forest lands and  
6 that the majority of these lands are available for harvest. However,  
7 many of the state's forest lands are threatened by conversion to  
8 nonforest uses, including commercial and residential development. In  
9 addition, worldwide fiber commodity prices, increased regulations, and  
10 changing patterns in corporate and individual ownership of forest lands  
11 are also contributing to the declines in working forest lands in the  
12 state. Therefore, it is the intent of this chapter to provide greater  
13 state financial assistance to revitalize and maintain forest lands in  
14 the state, through creation of a funding board to make grants on a  
15 competitive basis that support protection of the forest land base and  
16 that assist in developing innovative strategies for supporting  
17 economically and environmentally healthy forests and forest-dependent  
18 communities.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    The definitions in this section apply  
2 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

3        (1) "Board" means the timber land revitalization board created in  
4 section 3 of this act.

5        (2) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

6        (3) "Priority needs areas" means the geographic areas identified by  
7 the department for priority lands to be addressed under the forest  
8 legacy program.

9        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    (1) The timber land revitalization board is  
10 created. The board is composed of five members, of whom four members  
11 must be appointed by the governor. The commissioner of public lands  
12 shall serve ex officio as a voting member of the board. In making  
13 appointments, the governor shall provide for representation of the  
14 interests of industrial forest landowners, nonindustrial forest  
15 landowners, local governments, and nonprofit citizen organizations  
16 involved with the revitalization of timber lands and protection of the  
17 state's forest land base. The governor shall solicit and give  
18 substantial consideration to nominations provided by organizations  
19 representing these interests. Appointments to the board by the  
20 governor are subject to senate confirmation.

21        (2) The governor shall select a chair from among the members of the  
22 board.

23        (3) Board members serve four-year terms, except that the governor  
24 shall designate two of the initial appointments to serve for a term of  
25 two years. The terms commence January 1, 2007.

26        (4) Staff support to the board shall be provided by the department.  
27 For administrative purposes, the board shall be located within the  
28 department.

29        (5) Members of the board shall be compensated as provided by RCW  
30 43.03.250, and reimbursed for travel expenses as provided by RCW  
31 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

32        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    (1) The board is responsible for making  
33 grants and loans for the revitalization of timber lands consistent with  
34 the procedures and criteria of section 5 of this act, from the amounts  
35 appropriated to the board for this purpose. To accomplish this  
36 purpose, the board may:

1 (a) Provide assistance to grant applicants regarding the procedures  
2 and criteria for grant and loan awards;

3 (b) Make and execute all manner of contracts and agreements with  
4 public and private parties as the board deems necessary, consistent  
5 with the purposes of this chapter;

6 (c) Accept any gifts, grants, or loans of funds, property, or  
7 financial or other aid in any form from any other source on any terms  
8 that are not in conflict with this chapter; and

9 (d) Do all acts necessary or convenient to carry out the powers  
10 expressly granted or implied under this chapter.

11 (2) The department shall provide all necessary grant and loan  
12 administration assistance to the board, and shall distribute and  
13 account for funds appropriated or provided to the board for the  
14 purposes of this chapter.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) During each fiscal biennium, the board's  
16 total grants and loans are subject to the following limitations:

17 (a) Not less than thirty percent and not more than forty percent of  
18 the total must be awarded for projects and activities that sustain the  
19 forest land base and strengthen the connection between economic health  
20 and conservation of forests in Washington. Such activities may include  
21 but are not limited to:

22 (i) Programs or projects to support small timber landowners  
23 including such strategies as group timber certification, group habitat  
24 conservation plans, group cash flow pools, stewardship collaboration,  
25 and technical support;

26 (ii) Programs or projects that test methods for recreation access  
27 and cost-share programs;

28 (iii) Programs or projects that test methods to assist forest  
29 landowners in providing carbon sequestration, water recharge, and other  
30 natural resource services; and

31 (iv) Programs or projects that test methods to support forest  
32 landowners' efforts at cost control, such as law enforcement, road  
33 gates, and cleanup of illegal dumping.

34 (b) Not less than thirty percent and not more than forty percent of  
35 the total must be awarded for projects and activities that preserve  
36 forest lands over the long term for working forestry. Such activities  
37 may include but are not limited to:

1 (i) The acquisition of interests in forest lands for the purpose of  
2 protecting the lands for working forestry;

3 (ii) Developing and implementing cooperative agreements with forest  
4 landowners for maintaining working forestry; and

5 (iii) Other activities using conservation techniques such as  
6 clustering development rights, transfer of development rights, and land  
7 exchanges.

8 (c) Not less than thirty percent and not more than forty percent of  
9 the total must be awarded for planning, research, and policy  
10 development related to revitalizing working forests in the state.

11 (2) The board shall adopt guidelines for the amount of nonstate  
12 resources that must be committed for grants or loans from the  
13 categories established by the board. The amount may not be less than  
14 ten percent of the amount of the grant or loan from the board.

15 (3) The board shall also adopt guidelines that limit the amount of  
16 a grant or loan that may be allocated to administrative or other  
17 expenses of a grant or loan recipient that are not directly applied to  
18 the working forestry revitalization activities of the grant or loan.

19 (4) The board shall accord additional weight to applications that  
20 address forest lands within priority needs areas.

21 (5) During each fiscal year commencing July 1, 2007, and ending  
22 June 30, 2016, the board shall establish a goal of disbursing a minimum  
23 of twenty-five percent of the total funds awarded by the board in the  
24 form of low-interest loans. However, if the board determines that  
25 there are not sufficient applications for eligible projects to meet  
26 this goal, the board may award a lesser amount as loans, or may hold  
27 funds until the next funding cycle to encourage a greater number of  
28 loan applications.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute  
30 a new chapter in Title 76 RCW.

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