
SENATE BILL 6603

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Doumit, Morton and Parlette

Read first time 01/16/2006. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to wildfire prevention and protection; creating new
2 sections; making an appropriation; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The wildfire prevention and protection work
5 group is established. The work group consists of the following
6 members:

7 (1) Two members representing counties that contain significant
8 forest land, grazing land, or both, at least one each from eastern and
9 western Washington, selected by the Washington state association of
10 counties;

11 (2) A member representing a city that contains significant forest
12 land, grazing land, or both, selected by the association of Washington
13 cities;

14 (3) Three members representing fire districts that contain
15 significant forest land, grazing land, or both, at least one each from
16 eastern and western Washington, selected by the state fire marshal;

17 (4) Two members representing environmental protection
18 organizations, selected by the executive director of the Washington
19 state conservation commission;

1 (5) A member representing industrial forest landowners, selected by
2 the Washington forest protection association;

3 (6) A member representing small forest landowners, selected by the
4 Washington farm forestry association;

5 (7) A member representing the building industry, selected by the
6 building industry association of Washington;

7 (8) A member representing realtors, selected by the Washington
8 association of realtors;

9 (9) The insurance commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

10 (10) A member representing the Washington state building code
11 council, selected by the chair of the council; and

12 (11) The commissioner of public lands, or the commissioner's
13 designee.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The wildfire prevention and protection
15 work group shall review existing fire studies conducted by or for the
16 department of natural resources, the joint legislative audit and review
17 committee, and other organizations. The work group shall review the
18 following issues:

19 (a) Whether the forest fire protection assessment rate provides
20 sufficient funding towards the protection of public and private lands
21 from wildfires;

22 (b) Whether the statutory limitations on the purposes for which
23 moneys collected through the forest fire protection assessment and from
24 the landowner contingency forest fire suppression account may be
25 expended are warranted;

26 (c) Whether the term "forest land," as set forth in RCW 76.04.005,
27 properly defines the scope of land on which the forest fire protection
28 assessment should be assessed;

29 (d) Whether forest fire protection assessments are currently being
30 collected from all lands on which the department of natural resources
31 has the duty to impose such assessments;

32 (e) Whether the adoption of elements from wildfire programs of
33 other western states would improve wildfire protection and suppression
34 in Washington state;

35 (f) Whether the department of natural resources' authority to
36 protect forest land should include the authority to protect structures;

1 (g) Whether improvements and efficiencies in the department of
2 natural resources' fire protection activities would impact fire
3 suppression activities and expenses;

4 (h) Whether state and local building codes adequately address the
5 dangers posed by development in areas subject to wildfires;

6 (i) Whether local government land use regulations, and state
7 advisory and assistance programs, adequately address the dangers posed
8 by development in areas subject to wildfires; and

9 (j) Whether insurance rates in Washington state reflect the dangers
10 posed by development in areas subject to wildfires.

11 (2) Members of the forest fire prevention and protection work group
12 shall be reimbursed for travel expenses under RCW 43.03.050 and
13 43.03.060.

14 (3) The work group must be staffed by senate committee services and
15 the office of program research.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The wildfire prevention and protection work
17 group shall report its findings and recommendations in the form of
18 draft legislation to the legislature by December 1, 2006.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of thirty-five thousand dollars, or
20 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
21 year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the senate for the
22 travel expenses of the wildfire prevention and protection work group.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act expires July 1, 2007.

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