

SHB 2468 - H AMD 1174

By Representative Van De Wege

ADOPTED 02/18/2008

1 On page 2, beginning on line 19, strike all of sections 2 and 3 and
2 insert the following:

3 "Sec. 2. RCW 76.15.020 and 1991 c 179 s 4 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) The department (~~may~~) shall establish and maintain a program
6 in community and urban forestry to accomplish the purpose stated in RCW
7 76.15.007. The department may assist municipalities and counties in
8 establishing and maintaining community and urban forestry programs and
9 encourage persons to engage in appropriate and improved tree management
10 and care.

11 (2) The department (~~may~~) shall advise, encourage, and assist
12 municipalities, counties, and other public and private entities in the
13 development and coordination of policies, programs, and activities for
14 the promotion of community and urban forestry.

15 (3) The department may appoint a committee or council, in addition
16 to the technical advisory committee created in section 3 of this act,
17 to advise the department in establishing and carrying out a program in
18 community and urban forestry.

19 (4) The department may assist municipal and county tree maintenance
20 programs by making surplus equipment available on loan where feasible
21 for community and urban forestry programs and cooperative projects.

22 (5)(a) The department shall, in collaboration with educational
23 institutions, municipalities, corporations, the technical advisory
24 committee created in section 3 of this act, state and national service
25 organizations, and environmental organizations, conduct a prioritized
26 statewide inventory of community and urban forests.

27 (b) For purposes of efficiency, existing data and current inventory
28 technologies must be utilized in the development of the inventory.
29 Statewide data must be maintained and periodically updated by the
30 department and made available to every municipality in the state.

1 (c) The criteria established for the statewide community and urban
2 forest inventory must support the planning needs of local governments.

3 (d) The criteria for the statewide community and urban forest
4 inventory may include but is not limited to: Tree size, species,
5 location, site appropriateness, condition and health, contribution to
6 canopy cover and volume, available planting spaces, and ecosystem,
7 economic, social, and monetary value.

8 (e) In developing the statewide community and urban forest
9 inventory, the department shall strive to enable Washington cities'
10 urban forest managers to access carbon markets by working to ensure the
11 inventory developed under this section is compatible with existing and
12 developing urban forest reporting protocols designed to facilitate
13 access to those carbon markets.

14 (6) The department shall, in collaboration with a statewide
15 organization representing urban and community forestry programs, and
16 with any statutorily required urban forestry stakeholder task force
17 managed by the department of community, trade, and economic
18 development, conduct an urban forest assessment and develop
19 recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature to
20 improve community and urban forestry in Washington.

21 (7) The inventory and assessment required in this section must be
22 capable of supporting the adoption and implementation of urban forestry
23 management plans and ordinances that may be developed by local
24 governments.

25 (8) The department shall, in collaboration with municipalities, the
26 technical advisory committee created in section 3 of this act, and a
27 statewide organization representing urban and community forestry
28 programs, develop an implementation plan for the inventory and
29 assessment of the community and urban forests in Washington.

30 (9)(a) The criteria and implementation plan for the statewide
31 community and urban forest inventory and assessment required under this
32 section must be completed by December 1, 2008. Upon the completion of
33 the criteria and implementation plan's development, the department
34 shall report the final product to the appropriate committees of the
35 legislature. Subsequent annual reports must be submitted each December
36 until the statewide assessment required under this section is complete.

37 (b) An initial inventory and assessment, consisting of the
38 community and urban forests of the willing municipalities located in

1 one county located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains and the
2 willing municipalities located in one county located west of the crest
3 of the Cascade mountains must be completed by June 1, 2010.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 76.15 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The commissioner of public lands shall appoint a technical
7 advisory committee to provide advice to the department during the
8 development of the criteria and implementation plan for the statewide
9 community and urban forest inventory and assessment required under RCW
10 76.15.020.

11 (2) The technical advisory committee must include, but not be
12 limited to, representatives from the following groups: Arborists;
13 municipal foresters; educators; consultants; researchers; public works
14 and utilities professionals; information technology specialists; and
15 other affiliated professionals.

16 (3) The technical advisory committee members shall serve without
17 compensation. Advisory committee members who are not state employees
18 may receive reimbursement for travel expenses as provided by RCW
19 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Costs associated with the technical advisory
20 committee may be paid from the general fund appropriation made
21 available to the department for community and urban forestry.

22 (4) The technical advisory committee created in this section must
23 be disbanded by the commissioner of public lands upon the completion of
24 the criteria and implementation plan for the statewide community and
25 urban forest inventory and assessment required under RCW 76.15.020.

26 **Sec. 4.** RCW 76.15.010 and 2000 c 11 s 15 are each amended to read
27 as follows:

28 (~~Unless the context clearly requires otherwise,~~) The definitions
29 in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context
30 clearly requires otherwise.

31 (1) "Community and urban forest" is that land in and around human
32 settlements ranging from small communities to metropolitan areas,
33 occupied or potentially occupied by trees and associated vegetation.
34 Community and urban forest land may be planted or unplanted, used or
35 unused, and includes public and private lands, lands along

1 transportation and utility corridors, and forested watershed lands
2 within populated areas.

3 (2) "Community and urban forest assessment" means an analysis of
4 the community and urban forest inventory to establish the scope and
5 scale of forest-related benefits and services, the economic valuation
6 of such benefits, highlight trends and issues of concern, identify high
7 priority areas to be addressed, outline strategies for addressing the
8 critical issues and urban landscapes, and identify opportunities for
9 retaining trees, expanding forest canopy, and planting additional trees
10 to sustain Washington's urban and community forests.

11 (3) "Community and urban forest inventory" means a management tool
12 designed to gauge the condition, management status, health, and
13 diversity of a community and urban forest. A community and urban
14 forest inventory may evaluate individual trees or groups of trees or
15 canopy cover within community and urban forests, and must be
16 periodically updated by the department of natural resources.

17 (4) "Community and urban forestry" means the planning,
18 establishment, protection, care, and management of trees and associated
19 plants individually, in small groups, or under forest conditions within
20 municipalities and counties.

21 ~~((+3))~~ (5) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

22 ~~((+4))~~ (6) "Municipality" means a city, town, port district,
23 public school district, community college district, irrigation
24 district, weed control district, park district, or other political
25 subdivision of the state.

26 ~~((+5))~~ (7) "Person" means an individual, partnership, private or
27 public municipal corporation, Indian tribe, state entity, county or
28 local governmental entity, or association of individuals of whatever
29 nature."

30 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively, correct any internal
31 references accordingly, and correct the title.

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