

SSB 6053 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) A legislative task force on the
4 structure of the department of fish and wildlife is established, with
5 members as provided in this section.

6 (i) The two largest caucuses of the senate shall each appoint one
7 member.

8 (ii) The two largest caucuses of the house of representatives shall
9 each appoint one member.

10 (iii) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
11 representatives jointly shall appoint nine members representing the
12 timber industry, the farming community, the environmental community,
13 the ranching community, the shellfish community, the sport fishing
14 community, the commercial fishing community, the hunting community, and
15 a citizen with no affiliation with any of these or related groups.

16 (iv) The governor shall appoint two members representing the
17 department of fish and wildlife as nonvoting members.

18 (b) The task force shall choose its chair from among its
19 legislative membership.

20 (2) The task force's review and recommendations shall include, but
21 not be limited to, the following:

22 (a) The effectiveness and accountability of the current fish and
23 wildlife commission model;

24 (b) Whether or not the fish and wildlife commission should retain
25 the power to hire and terminate the director;

26 (c) Whether or not the fish and wildlife commissioner appointment
27 process is effective and whether or not commissioners should be limited
28 to no more than two consecutive terms in office;

29 (d) Whether or not a citizens' ombuds function should be added to

1 the fish and wildlife commission model and if so, what would the role
2 of the ombuds be;

3 (e) Whether or not it is necessary to restructure the policy
4 authority of the fish and wildlife commission;

5 (f) Possible alternative models for fish and wildlife commission
6 structures;

7 (g) Whether or not the fish and wildlife commission's role should
8 be limited to that of an advisory body;

9 (h) Possible alternatives for appointment and confirmation of fish
10 and wildlife commission members;

11 (i) Whether or not the fish and wildlife commission's effectiveness
12 and accountability would be improved with the addition of either policy
13 staff or fiscal staff, or both;

14 (j) Whether or not the role of regulating recreational fishing and
15 hunting policy and season setting should be separated from commercial
16 activities, regulatory role/functions, land management, and other
17 departmental administrative functions;

18 (k) The effectiveness and responsiveness to the public, the office
19 of the governor, and the legislature of the fish and wildlife
20 commission and department of fish and wildlife management structure;
21 and

22 (l) Whether or not the existing geographic, consultation, and
23 expertise mandates for fish and wildlife commission appointments meet
24 the needs of the state or whether or not the fish and wildlife
25 commission should be restructured.

26 (3) Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the house
27 office of program research and senate committee services.

28 (4) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for
29 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
30 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are
31 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW
32 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

33 (5) The expenses of the task force shall be paid jointly by the
34 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
35 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
36 and the house executive rules committee, or their successor committees.

37 (6) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
38 the governor, the fish and wildlife commission, the director of fish

1 and wildlife, and the appropriate committees of the legislature by
2 December 1, 2007. Final recommendations shall be officially adopted
3 according to rules agreed to by a majority of the legislators or the
4 task force.

5 (7) This section expires June 30, 2008."

EFFECT: Removes the Governor's office from the Legislative task force. The Governor, or Governor's representative, will no longer convene the initial meeting of the task force.

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