

E2SHB 2844 - S AMD TO WM COMM AMD (S-5940.4/08) **249**
By Senator Morton

NOT ADOPTED 03/06/2008

1 Beginning on page 1, after line 2 of the amendment, strike all
2 material through "void." on page 30, line 34, and insert the following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 76.15.005 and 1991 c 179 s 1 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) Trees and other woody vegetation are a necessary and important
6 part of community and urban environments. Community and urban forests
7 have many values and uses including promoting urban livability,
8 improving public health, sequestering carbon, conserving energy,
9 reducing air and water pollution and soil erosion, contributing to
10 property values, attracting business, reducing glare and noise,
11 providing aesthetic and historical values, providing wood products, and
12 affording comfort and protection for humans and wildlife.

13 (2) Well-managed and maintained community and urban forests
14 minimize catastrophic losses of life, property, and environmental
15 values due to floods, windstorms, ice storms, wildland fires, and other
16 natural disasters. Natural disasters, pest and disease infestations,
17 and lack of protection from human impacts pose significant threats to
18 the community and urban forests. Urban forests provide multiple
19 benefits and their loss would result in major financial, social, and
20 environmental costs to Washington.

21 (3) As urban and community areas in Washington state grow, the need
22 to plan for and protect community and urban forests increases. Cities
23 and communities benefit from assistance in developing and maintaining
24 community and urban forestry programs that also address future growth.

25 ((+3)) (4) Assistance and encouragement in establishment,
26 retention, and enhancement of these forests and trees by local
27 governments, citizens, organizations, and professionals are in the
28 interest of the state based on the contributions these forests make in
29 preserving and enhancing the quality of life of Washington's

1 municipalities and counties while providing opportunities for economic
2 development.

3 (5) An inventory and assessment of community and urban forest
4 conditions enables the department to identify and establish priorities
5 for actions necessary to preserve and enhance the public investment in
6 community and urban forest resources.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 76.15.010 and 2000 c 11 s 15 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 ~~((Unless the context clearly requires otherwise,))~~ The definitions
10 in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context
11 clearly requires otherwise.

12 (1) "Community and urban forest" is that land in and around human
13 settlements ranging from small communities to metropolitan areas,
14 occupied or potentially occupied by trees and associated vegetation.
15 Community and urban forest land may be planted or unplanted, used or
16 unused, and includes public and private lands, lands along
17 transportation and utility corridors, and forested watershed lands
18 within populated areas.

19 (2) "Community and urban forest assessment" means an analysis of
20 the community and urban forest inventory to establish the value of
21 urban forest-related benefits, highlight trends and issues of concern,
22 identify high priority areas to be addressed, outline strategies for
23 addressing critical issues and urban landscapes, and identify
24 opportunities for the planting of additional trees to sustain
25 Washington's urban and community forests.

26 (3) "Community and urban forest inventory" means a management tool
27 designed to gauge the condition, management status, health, and
28 diversity of a community and urban forest. An inventory may evaluate
29 individual trees, groups of trees, or canopy cover within community and
30 urban forests, and must be periodically updated by the department.

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

35 ~~((+3))~~ (5) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

36 ~~((+4))~~ (6) "Municipality" means a city, town, port district,

1 public school district, community college district, irrigation
2 district, weed control district, park district, or other political
3 subdivision of the state.

4 ~~((+5))~~ (7) "Person" means an individual, partnership, private or
5 public municipal corporation, Indian tribe, state entity, county or
6 local governmental entity, or association of individuals of whatever
7 nature.

8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 76.15.020 and 1991 c 179 s 4 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 (1) The department may establish and maintain a program in
11 community and urban forestry to accomplish the purpose stated in RCW
12 76.15.007. The department may assist municipalities and counties in
13 establishing and maintaining community and urban forestry programs and
14 encourage persons to engage in appropriate and improved tree management
15 and care.

16 (2) The department may advise, encourage, and assist
17 municipalities, counties, and other public and private entities in the
18 development and coordination of policies, programs, and activities for
19 the promotion and preservation of community and urban forestry.

20 (3) The department may appoint a committee or council to advise the
21 department in establishing and carrying out a program in community and
22 urban forestry.

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

26 (5) The commissioner of public lands may appoint a technical
27 advisory committee to advise the department in the development of
28 uniform criteria for a statewide community and urban forest inventory
29 and assessment.

30 (a) The technical advisory committee may include but is not limited
31 to: Arborists; municipal foresters; educators; consultants;
32 researchers; public works and utilities professionals; information
33 technology specialists; and other affiliated professionals.

34 (b) The criteria for a statewide community and urban forest
35 inventory may include, but is not limited to: Tree size; species;
36 location; condition; contribution to canopy cover and volume; available
37 planting spaces; and economic, social, and monetary value.

1 (c) The technical advisory committee members must be compensated as
2 provided in RCW 43.03.250 and must receive reimbursement for travel
3 expenses as provided by RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Costs associated
4 with the technical advisory committee may be paid from the general fund
5 appropriation made available to the department for community and urban
6 forestry.

7 (6) The department may, in collaboration with municipalities and a
8 statewide organization representing urban and community forestry
9 programs, develop the implementation plan for the inventory and
10 assessment of the community and urban forests in Washington state.

11 (7) The department may, in collaboration with educational
12 institutions, municipalities, corporations, state and national service
13 organizations, and environmental organizations, conduct a statewide
14 inventory of community and urban forests. Statewide data must be
15 maintained and periodically updated by the department and made
16 available to every municipality.

17 (8) The department may, in collaboration with a statewide
18 organization representing urban and community forestry programs,
19 conduct an urban forest assessment and develop recommendations to the
20 legislature to improve community and urban forestry in Washington
21 state. The commissioner of public lands must report progress annually
22 to the legislature, beginning January 1, 2009.

23 (9) Under the authority provided in this section, the department
24 shall conduct an inventory and assessment consisting of the community
25 and urban forests of the willing municipalities located in one county
26 located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains and the willing
27 municipalities located in one county located west of the crest of the
28 Cascade mountains. The inventory and assessment must be completed by
29 June 1, 2010."

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30 On page 31, line 2 of the title amendment, after "insert" strike

1 the remainder of the title amendment and insert "and amending RCW
2 76.15.005, 76.15.010, and 76.15.020."

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