

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SHB 1192

As Passed House:

March 6, 2007

Title: An act relating to the director of parks and recreation.

Brief Description: Authorizing the governor to appoint the director of parks and recreation.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Kessler, B. Sullivan, Miloscia, Kagi and Wood).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Agriculture & Natural Resources: 1/25/07, 2/13/07 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/6/07, 64-33.

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Authorizes the Governor to appoint the Director of the State Parks and Recreation Commission.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives B. Sullivan, Chair; Blake, Vice Chair; Kretz, Ranking Minority Member; Dickerson, Eickmeyer, Grant, Kagi, McCoy and VanDeWege.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 6 members: Representatives Warnick, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Hailey, Lantz, Newhouse, Orcutt and Strow.

Staff: Jaclyn Ford (786-7339).

Background:

The State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) has authorization to care, charge, control, and supervise all parks and parkways in Washington. The Commission consists of seven members, all appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Commission qualifies and employs a director of parks and recreation. The Director's duties include ensuring the control of weeds, participating in the Environmental Enhancement and Job Creation Task Force, and carrying out other duties assigned by the Commission.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

The Governor will, with the consent of the Senate, appoint a Director to the State Parks and Recreation Commission. The Director will serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) The public has difficulty coordinating with the Commission. The Governor needs to be in direct alliance with the Commissioners. There seems to be no control within the Commission. The Commission has no oversight and no one in authority. Information is not easily obtained from the Commission. There is no one to appeal to after the Commission makes a decision; a hearing officer could be beneficial. The Commission does not respond to citizens and park users. The Commission members' terms can be extensive; term limits may be a viable option. The Commission does not have the expertise or means to manage the agency.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Kessler, prime sponsor; Ray Benish and Ann Hurst, Citizens for Saint Edward State Park.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.