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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1193**

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**State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives B. Sullivan and Pearson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/13/07.

1            AN ACT Relating to the director of the department of fish and  
2 wildlife; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

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

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

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

11            (iii) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of  
12 representatives jointly shall appoint eight members representing the  
13 timber industry, the farming community, the environmental community,  
14 the ranching community, the shellfish community, the sport fishing  
15 community, the commercial fishing community, and the hunting community.

16            (iv) The governor shall appoint two members representing the  
17 department of fish and wildlife as nonvoting members. The governor  
18 shall also appoint one member to represent the governor's office as a  
19 nonvoting member.

1 (b) The task force shall choose its chair from among its  
2 legislative membership. The governor, or the governor's  
3 representative, shall convene the initial meeting of the task force.

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

6 (a) The effectiveness and accountability of the current fish and  
7 wildlife commission model;

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

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

13 (d) Whether or not a citizens' ombuds function should be added to  
14 the fish and wildlife commission model and if so, what would the role  
15 of the ombuds be;

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

18 (f) Possible alternative models for fish and wildlife commission  
19 structures;

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

22 (h) Possible alternatives for appointment and confirmation of fish  
23 and wildlife commission members;

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

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

31 (k) The effectiveness and responsiveness to the public, the office  
32 of the governor, and the legislature of the fish and wildlife  
33 commission and department of fish and wildlife management structure;  
34 and

35 (l) Whether or not the existing geographic, consultation, and  
36 expertise mandates for fish and wildlife commission appointments meet  
37 the needs of the state or whether or not the fish and wildlife  
38 commission should be restructured.

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

3 (4) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for  
4 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
5 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are  
6 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW  
7 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

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

12 (6) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to  
13 the governor, the fish and wildlife commission, the director of fish  
14 and wildlife, and the appropriate committees of the legislature by  
15 December 1, 2007. Final recommendations shall be officially adopted  
16 according to rules agreed to by a majority of the legislators or the  
17 task force.

18 (7) This section expires June 30, 2008.

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