

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5105

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As of February 4, 2009

**Title:** An act relating to the state oak tree.

**Brief Description:** Designating the Garry Oak as the state oak tree.

**Sponsors:** Senators Jacobsen, Haugen and McDermott.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation: 2/04/09.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, OCEAN & RECREATION

**Staff:** Sherry McNamara (786-7402)

**Background:** The Legislature has designated specific symbols in a number of categories as the official representative for Washington. Washington has an official state tree, grass, flower, fruit, marine mammal, bird, insect, fossil, and fish. The state does not have a designated oak tree.

The Garry Oak is Washington's only native oak.

**Summary of Bill:** The Garry Oak is designated as the official oak tree of the state of Washington.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: The Garry Oak has a historical range from southern British Columbia to southern California. The tree provides a valuable habitat for numerous species such as migratory birds, the gray squirrel, deer, and turkey. The Garry Oak habitat is declining and is being destroyed in some areas by development and invasive

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species. It is important to raise the public's awareness of this tree's value and importance so that as many as possible are kept as part of the landscape.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Rocky Beach, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Steve Robinson, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; David Thysell, citizen.