
SENATE BILL 5070

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen and Kline

Read first time 01/12/09. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Ocean & Recreation.

1 AN ACT Relating to addressing the threats posed by invasive
2 species; amending RCW 79A.25.370; adding new sections to chapter 79A.25
3 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that invasive species,
6 which are nonnative organisms that cause economic or environmental harm
7 and are capable of spreading to new areas of the state, pose a great
8 threat to the citizens, natural resources, and economy of Washington
9 state. The state spends millions of dollars each year on a variety of
10 efforts to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive species. In its
11 2008 strategic plan entitled "Invaders at the Gate," the Washington
12 invasive species council provided several recommendations to help
13 maximize the effectiveness of these ongoing invasive species efforts by
14 enhancing program coordination and the flow of information among
15 invasive species-related programs and the public. The legislature
16 intends to facilitate the implementation of these recommendations, and
17 to create an invasive species grant program to fund other efforts vital
18 to the prevention, control, and eradication of invasive species in
19 Washington.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 79A.25 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The council shall:

4 (a) Develop a statewide baseline assessment of invasive species in
5 Washington state. The assessment must consist of existing available
6 information about invasive species and programs related to prevention,
7 control, and eradication of invasive species. The council shall
8 develop the assessment to allow analysis of invasive species issues,
9 prevention, control, or eradication efforts in place, and the progress
10 of these efforts;

11 (b) Provide public access to invasive species information through
12 an internet-based information clearinghouse. The clearinghouse must
13 allow members of the public and other invasive species-related programs
14 to access information and analysis from invasive species efforts
15 statewide. The clearinghouse must also include a mechanism allowing
16 users to provide additional invasive species information to other users
17 and to the council for inclusion in the statewide baseline assessment;
18 and

19 (c) Conduct a targeted outreach campaign to provide information to
20 Washington's citizens about the dangers posed by invasive species and
21 steps that citizens can take to prevent, control, or eradicate invasive
22 species. In conducting the outreach campaign, the council shall seek
23 to coordinate with and complement other more specific outreach efforts
24 already underway.

25 (2) The council shall include a brief evaluation of progress made
26 in the preceding year to carry out subsection (1) of this section in
27 the annual report required each year under RCW 79A.25.350.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 79A.25 RCW
29 to read as follows:

30 (1) The council is responsible for making grants to state and local
31 agencies for the prevention, control, or eradication of invasive
32 species from amounts appropriated by the legislature for these
33 purposes. The council shall distribute these amounts to the projects
34 and activities that it finds are the most effective investment towards
35 addressing the invasive species issues facing the state. Projects and
36 activities funded may include those that: Prevent the introduction of
37 invasive species into Washington; control or eradicate invasive species

1 already in Washington; foster cooperation, coordination, and
2 communication regarding invasive species prevention, control, or
3 eradication; refine and coordinate statewide capacity to identify,
4 report, and respond to invasive species; and restore ecosystems
5 adversely affected by invasive species. The council may use the
6 strategic goals, recommendations, and actions included in its 2008
7 strategic plan entitled "Invaders at the Gate" as the basis for funding
8 categories or project evaluation criteria or the council may choose to
9 develop other funding categories or evaluation criteria under
10 subsection (2) of this section.

11 (2) In order to carry out subsection (1) of this section, the
12 council may:

13 (a) Provide assistance to grant applicants regarding the procedures
14 and project evaluation criteria for grant and loan awards;

15 (b) Make and execute all manner of contracts and agreements with
16 grant recipients and with other public and private parties as the
17 council deems necessary, consistent with the purposes of this section;

18 (c) Adopt additional or alternative funding categories, project
19 evaluation criteria, or other procedures as necessary to carry out the
20 purposes of this section, which may include guidelines for the amount
21 of nonstate resources that must be committed for grants and guidelines
22 that limit the amount of a grant that may be allocated for
23 administrative expenses; and

24 (d) Do all acts necessary or convenient to carry out the powers
25 expressly granted or implied under this section.

26 (3) The recreation and conservation office shall provide staff
27 support for the grant making activities conducted by the council under
28 this section.

29 **Sec. 4.** RCW 79A.25.370 and 2007 c 241 s 62 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 The invasive species council account is created in the custody of
32 the state treasurer. All receipts from appropriations, gifts, grants,
33 and donations must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from
34 the account may be used only to carry out the purposes of the council
35 and section 3 of this act. The account is subject to allotment
36 procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW and the approval of the director of

1 the recreation and conservation office is required for expenditures.
2 All expenditures must be directed by the council.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 4 of this act expires December 31,
4 2011.

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